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AMPS 2011 SHOW REPORT

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 65 - September 2011
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SHI-KI

1:35 scale Japanese Command Tank conversion

TOPLESS TWENTY

Tamiya's 1:35 scale M20 detailed and weathered

NO MAN'S LAND

Andrea Miniatures 1:10 WWI bust

INSIDE: 1:35 Wirbelwind ■ 1:35 Leopard 2A7 conversion ■ 1:35 Krupp Protze ■ 1:35 VK 4502 ■ and more...

September2011 / £4.20 / Issue 65
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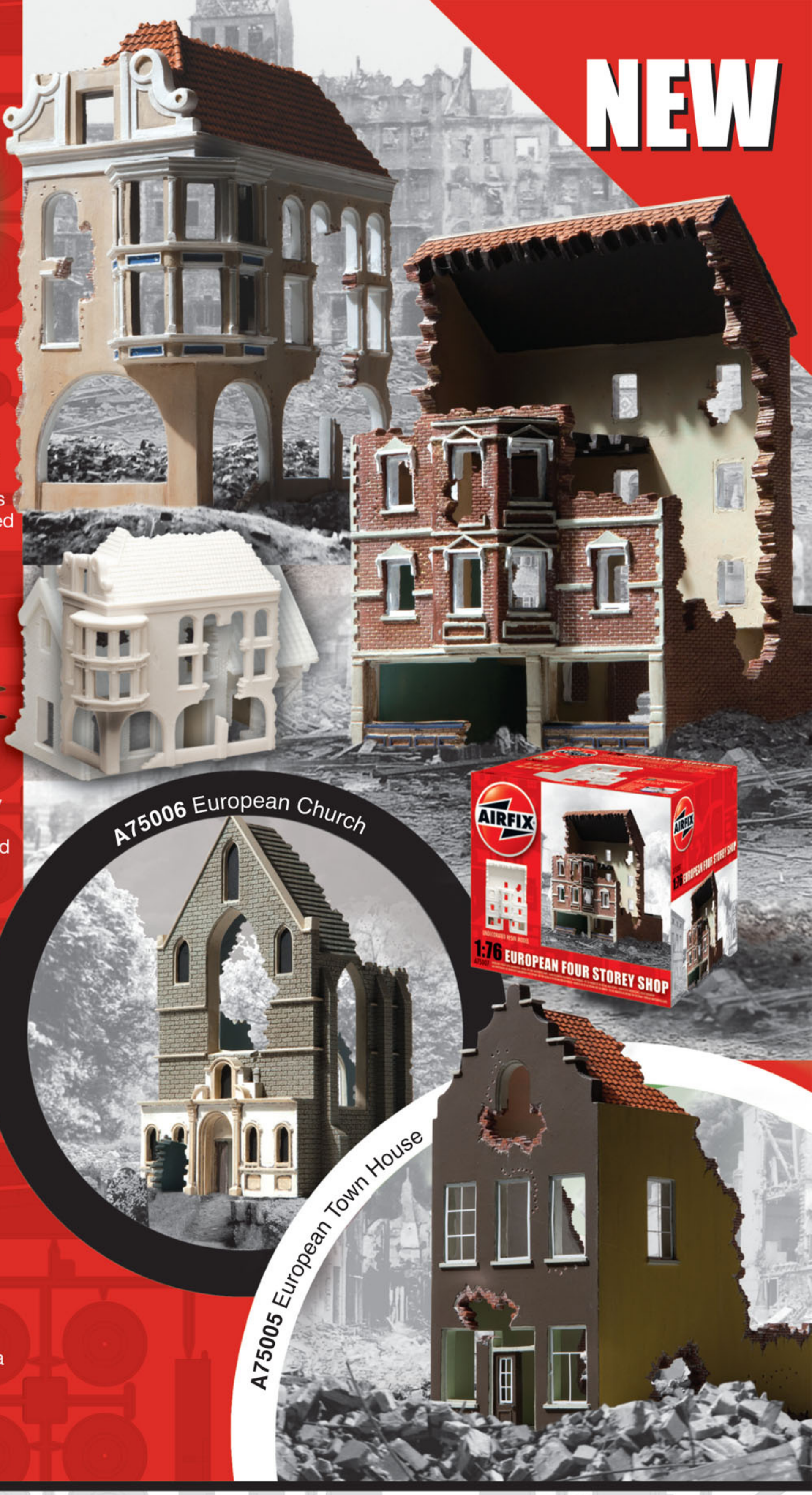

These Ready Made Resin Ruined Buildings come unpainted but completely built apart from the optional window glazing. They make superb additions for dioramas and props for wargaming. Painting guides are supplied, but these can be painted in any colour using either Humbrol Enamels or Acrylics.

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Acrylic
Humbrol
Enamel

A75008 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN BREWERY

Breweries are commonplace in many towns of Northern Europe. This one, based on a German style has suffered severe damage in the onslaught.

A75007 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN FOUR STOREY SHOP

As the Allies battles their way into German towns in 1944 adn 1945 many businesses were ruined as the opposing armies fought ferociously from street to street.

A75006 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN CHURCH

As most towns across Europe had a church as a centrepiece, they in turn of course became casualties of war themselves. This is a style found in Belgium.

A75005 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN TOWN HOUSE

The hard-fought battles across Europe destroyed many a private dwelling, and this model represents a style found in Belgium during WWII.

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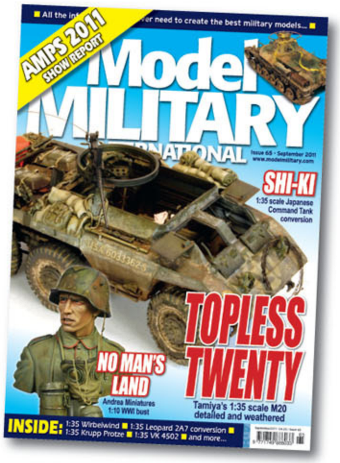
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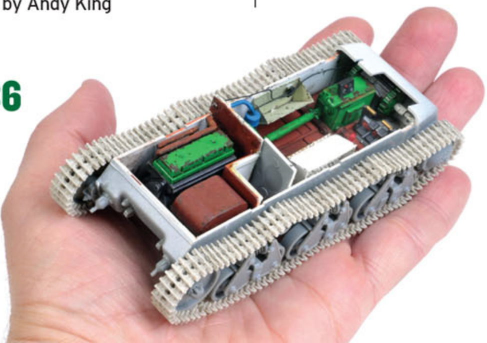

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INSIDE THE ARMOUR

CHRURCHILL ACCESSORIES AND CONVERSIONS

Inside the Armour has released a bunch of new releases for AFV Club's Churchill kits.

35030 is a replacement turret for the AFV Club MkIV Churchill featuring improved cast texture and casting marks, ventilator in the correct position and a range of other small details.

35030 (Int) is the turret from 35030 plus the addition of interior details, including gun breech, radio and radio stowage box and turret wall stowage items.

35031 Churchill Mk.V/ Late Mk.IV turret - this is a replacement turret for the AFV Club MkI.V Turret to convert the Mk.IV into a Mk.V, the specific 95mm Close Support Churchill that replaced the elderly Mk.I and Mk.Ics in 1944.

The turret features correct squared mantlet aperture, reshaped for the Mk.V to allow the gun sight to operate at higher elevation for the howitzer, centrally located ventilator fan (again moved to allow more room for the larger sighting equipment required. Casting marks are based on a surviving example. The turret base has been remodelled and of course it includes a 95mm gun barrel

The conversion also includes a free bonus disc containing a walkaround of well over 100 high quality photos of the MkV Churchill at Overloon.

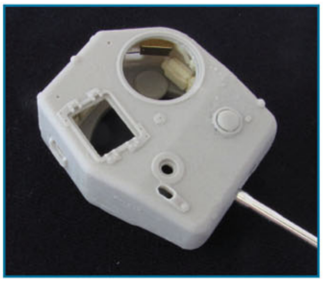
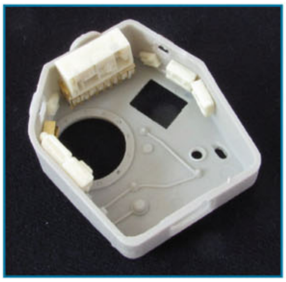
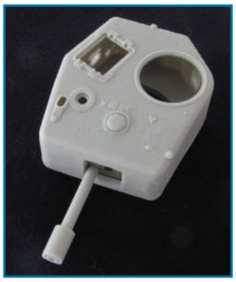
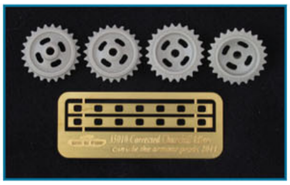
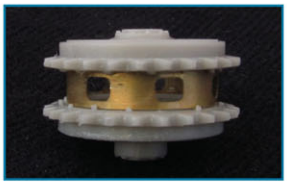
Note - the aluminium barrel not Included and is used for illustration purposes only

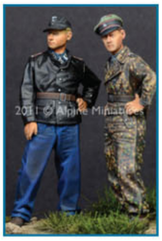
A new set of Improved replacement idlers is also available.

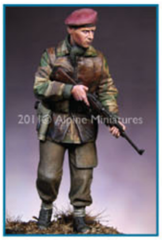
This is a set of two replacement idlers for all marks of AFV Club Churchill featuring the inner rim lightening holes and inside edge rivet detail missing on AFV Club idlers.

These were previously released as all resin items, but Chris from Inside the Armour was never quite happy with the thickness of the inner rim (which on the real thing is very thin, or the 'exactness' of the lightening holes). The new etched inner rim solves both problems.

These are available now direct from Inside the Armour's website: ***www.insidethearmour.com***





ALPINE MINIATURES NEW RELEASES

Alpine Miniatures has four new releases for June, 2011:

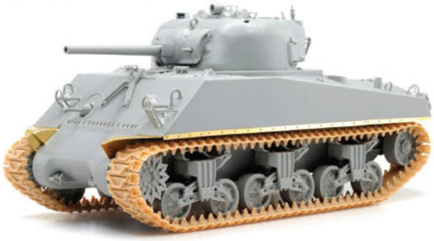
- 35120 Michael Wittmann 1944 (1/35) - MSRP $16.50 USD
- 35121 Balthasar "Bobby" Woll (1/35) - MSRP $16.50 USD
- 35122 Tiger Aces in Normandy 2 figures (1/35) - MSRP $32.00 USD
- 16013 WW2 British S.A.S. Commando (1/16) - MSRP $50.00 USD

For more info check out Alpine's website www.alpineminiatures.com

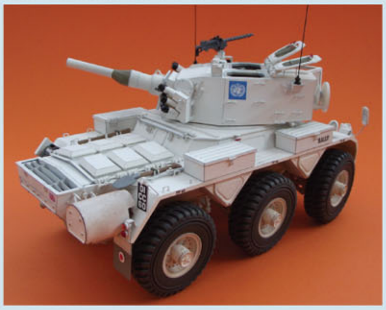
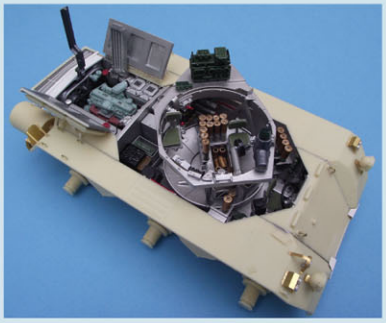
NEW FROM DRAGON

Dragon's latest 1:35 Sherman is an M4A3 fitted with a 75mm M3 gun. The tank has wet stowage for the ammo rounds too. This kit builds upon recent Sherman plastic kit releases. It features accurate VVSS suspension, and the T-54E1 w/EEC tracks are made from DS to make them easy to assemble. New parts include the whole upper hull, while the accurate turret receives new brackets on the top where a spare machine gun barrel can be stowed. This highly detailed kit fills a void in the Sherman family, with the M4A3 being an extremely important tank in the Allied and US effort to liberate Europe.

Dragon models are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited ***www.hobbyco.net***



KIT FORM SERVICES 1:24 SCALE SALADIN ARMOURED CAR

Kit Form Services has released a Saladin Armoured Car in 1:24 scale.

The 485 part kit includes a highly detailed B80 Rolls Royce straight 8 engine in a fully detailed engine bay with hinged covers and hinged oil cooler and oil cooler support bar; complete torsion bar suspension and running gear with 12.00 x 20 Trak Grip tyres; a fully detailed drivers compartment with working hatch and a full compliment of controls, stowage and instruments. The lift out turret and turret basket is complete with all gunner's and loader's controls, seats, stowage trays and boxes, C42 and B47 radios, .30cal ranging MG, main armament ammo racks with 24 rounds of ammo in HESH, HE and Smoke format, plus six empty cases and a sliding breach block (each round of ammo also has 2 decals). With the turret lifted out the remainder of the inside of the hull can then be viewed to reveal further ammo racks, crew water tank, a third fuel tank, fire extinguishers, batteries and even more stowage.

On the outside of the vehicle are the commander's .30 cal. machine gun, turret stowage basket in brass etch, working turret hatches, smoke dischargers, fire extinguishers, pioneer tools and tow ropes, first aid kit and four gallon water container. All five external stowage bins are thin wall cast and hollow and have separate poseable lids and padlocks for diorama work.

This kit is available online from Kit Form Services ***www.kitformservices.com***

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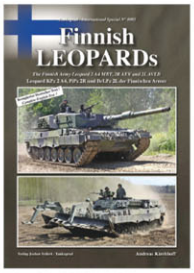

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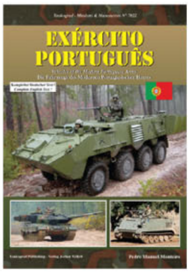

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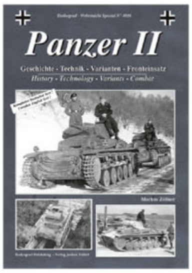

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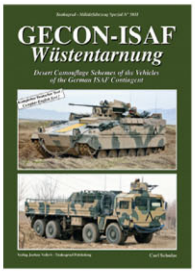

GECON-ISAF Wüstentarnung Desert Camouflage of the Vehicles of the German ISAF Contingent
For the first time this publication grants a closer look at this new 'desert camouflage' of the Bundeswehr based on colour samples and large format comparative photographs.Illustrated with 112 b&w photographs. Complete English text. Number of pages: 64

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MILITÄRFAHRZEUG 3-2011 Quarterly Magazine
Featuring Fiat 500A Topolino, PzH 2000A1 SPH in Afghanistan, Roaring Lion 84 Story of a Panzer Company HEMTT A4 Bergepanzer M 74 ARV, T-27 Tankette, Armored M110A2, Belgian Steel, LKW 15 t mil gl A4 MULTI FSA Truck, Marder IFV Close Combat Vehicle, Museum Stammheim. Fully illustrated German text with English captions and comprehensive English summary. Quarterly magazine. Number of Pages: 56+4

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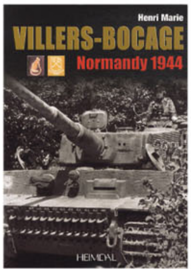

Villers-Bocage
In this new publication Henri Marie returns to the subject of Villers Bocage with new insights and documentation. A complementary study by a Panzer specialist (Wolfgang Schneider) makes it possible to verify Michael Wittman's real motives in contrast to what German propaganda claimed. Illustrated throughout in full colour.

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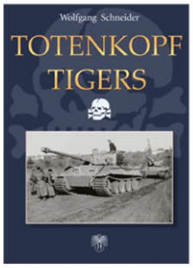

Totenkopf Tigers
Written by Wolfgang Schneider, one of the foremost experts on WW II armour warfare, TOTENKOPF TIGERS is the history of the Tiger Company of the 3.SS-Panzer-Division Totenkopf. Hardcover, large format, approximately 320 pages, 448 photographs, 55 maps, 16 pages of colour profiles, 20 documents and several orders of battle.

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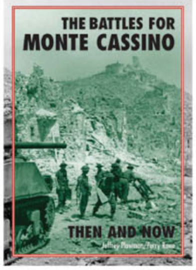

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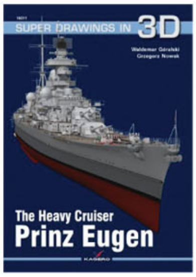

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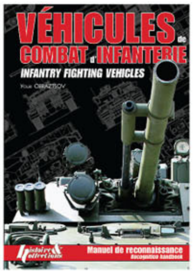

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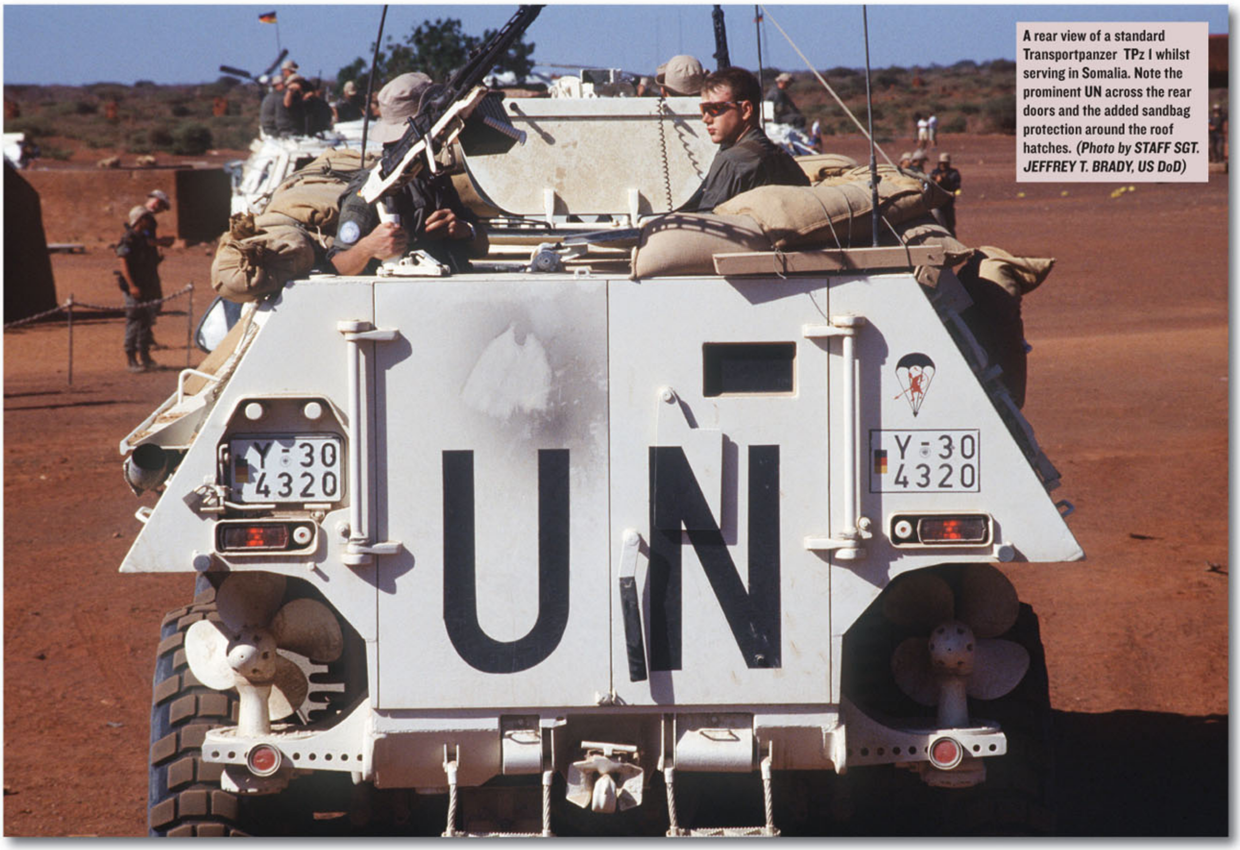


A rear view of a standard Transportpanzer TPz I whilst serving in Somalia. Note the prominent UN across the rear doors and the added sandbag protection around the roof hatches. ***(Photo by STAFF SGT. JEFFREY T. BRADY, US DoD)***

TRANSPORTPANZER I FUCHS

Stuart Ransley describes the development and variants of the German Transporterpanzer I Fuchs

The Transportpanzer 1 Fuchs (fox) is a six wheel drive armoured personnel carrier developed by Daimler-Benz and built by Thyssen-Henschel for the German Army. It first entered service in 1979. The Fuchs is used in various roles including troop-transport, engineer-transport, NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) reconnaissance and electronic warfare. It has been purchased by several countries including the UK, US, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. The Fuchs has seen service in Kuwait and Iraq as well as Yugoslavia and Afghanistan.

HISTORY

In 1964, the West German Ministry of Defence began a study into the future vehicle requirements for the West German military. The study saw the need for a range of new vehicles which included an 8 x 8 armoured amphibious reconnaissance vehicle, 4 x 4 and 6 x 6 armoured amphibious load carriers and a range of 4x 4, 6 x 6 and 8 x 8 tactical trucks. One of the major requirements of the study was that as many commercially available components were to be used across all the vehicles.

After extensive trials, the 8 x 8 armoured amphibious reconnaisance vehicle became the Spahpanzer Luchs. The 4 x 4, 6 x6 and 8 x 8 tactical trucks were built by MAN. The 4 x 4 amphibious load carrier became the Transportpanzer 2 and the 6 x 6 amphibious load carrier became the Transportpanzer 1. The Transportpanzer 2 was not however placed in production. Both these vehicles had been designed by Daimler-Benz. In 1977, under licence from Daimler-Benz,Thyssen-Henschel was awarded the contract to produce the Transportpanzer 1 with the first vehicle delivered to the West German Army in December 1979.

PERFORMANCE

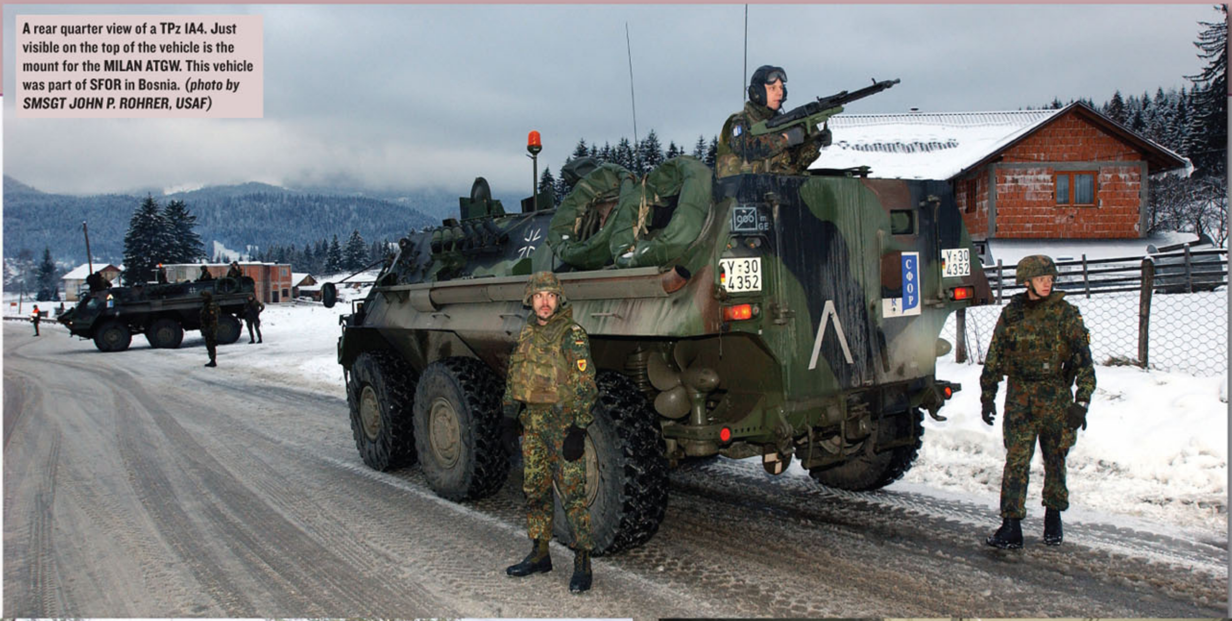
The Fuchs is fitted with a Daimler-Benz V-8 liquid-cooled diesel engine. It has a maximum speed of 105 km/h and a range of 800 km. It weighs 18.3 tons and can carry an additional 6 tons of equipment. It is propelled and steered through the water by its 2 rear-mounted propellers. These can rotate 3600 and give a top speed of 10 km/h

PROTECTION

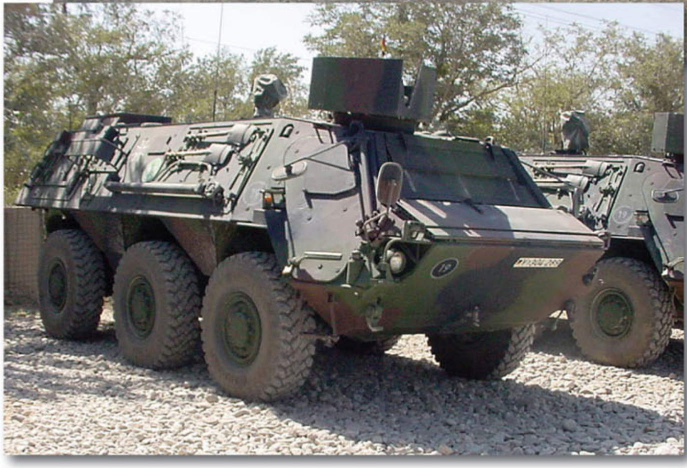
The monocoque hull of the Transportpanzer 1 gives protection against small arms fire and artillery fragments. The windscreen and all other glass componants are constructed from laminated armoured glass. The vehicle is also fitted with an NBC protection system. During operations in Somalia it was found that the Transportpanzer 1 did not have the armour protection to allow it to operate in a frontline situation. An add-on armour system was developed known as MEXAS, (Modular Expandable Armour System). The system provides the following:

- add-on armour plating mounted to the exterior of the vehicle;
- add on armour plating in the wheel archs and floor to protect against mines;
- reinforced armoured glass windows;
- reinforced armoured visors for shielding the windows;
- spall-lining added to all interior surfaces of the vehicle and
- An RS Lafettenschutz shielded gun mounting (except Ambulance vehicles).

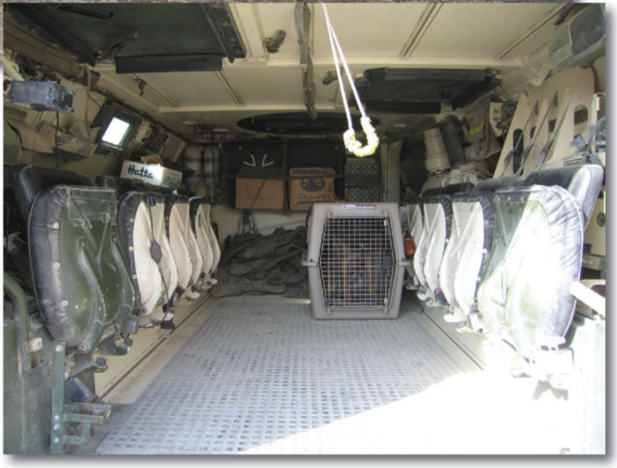
The first twenty-five upgraded TPz 1 A7 were delivered to the German Army in early 1996 and were issued to the German IFOR contingent.



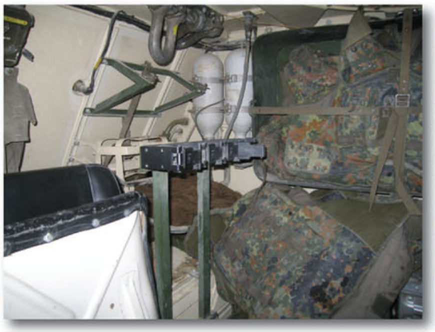
A rear quarter view of a TPz IA4. Just visible on the top of the vehicle is the mount for the **MILAN ATGW**. This vehicle was part of **SFOR** in Bosnia. *(photo by SMSGT JOHN P. ROHRER, USAF)*



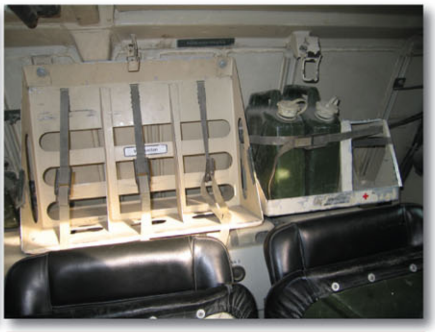
A pair of TPz IA7A3 showing the RS Lafettenschutz shielded gun mounting and MEXAS bolt on armour parked at the Bagram Air Base (AB), Afghanistan *(photo by SSGT SCOTT T. STURKOL, USAF)*



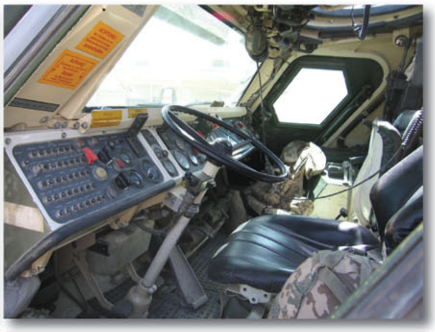
Inside the crew compartment of a TPz IA7A3 *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*



A detailed view of the infantry weapons stowage *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*



Stowage racks inside the crew compartment *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*



The driver's compartment on a TPz IA7A3 *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*

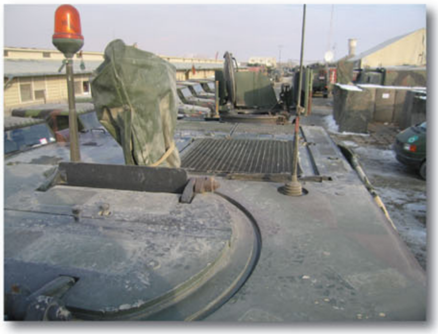
ARMAMENT

The Fuchs can be armed with up to 3 Rheinmetall MG3 general purpose machine guns with mounts at the front (Commander's hatch), centre and rear of the vehicle. Fuchs used by the Armoured Reconnaissance Battalions, Panzergrenadiers, and the mountain infantry of the German Army are also armed with MILAN anti-tank-guided missiles. The mount for this weapon is positioned just in front of the central hatch on the roof. Some Fuchs serving in Afghanistan have been armed with an Automatic Grenade Launcher. This weapon being mounted on the centre roof hatch.

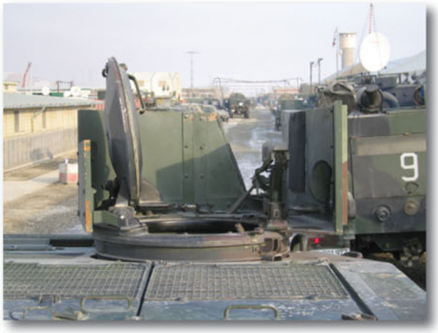
VARIANTS

Standard Version

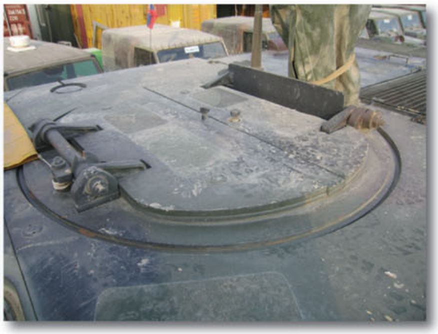
- **TPz 1**
- **TPz 1 A4 - Armoured Reconnaissance**
  This version is fitted with seating for eight troops and is fitted with a mount for a Milan Firing post. This mount is fitted to the central hatch of the vehicle.
- **TPz 1 A4 - Engineers**
  This variant is designed to carry an engineer squad plus their specialist equipment. It can be identified by the two round bins on the roof of the troop compartment. These bins are used to carry rolls of barbed or razor wire. The main hatch over the troop compartment is smaller as well. ▶



The MILAN mounting on the roof *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*

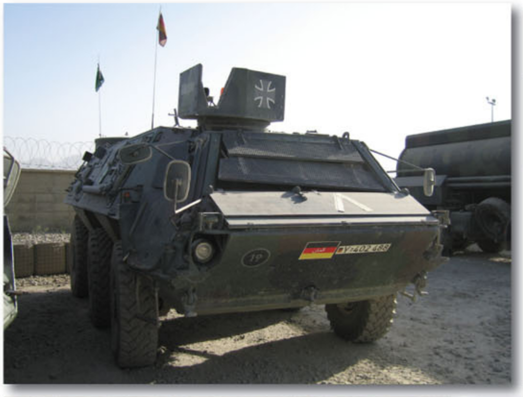


A view of the rear of the RS Lafettenschutz shielded gun mounting *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*

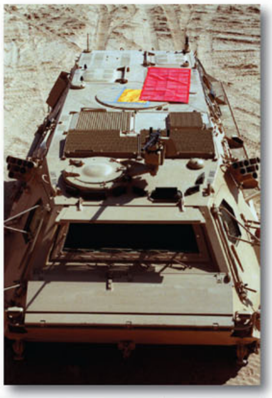


A view of the central roof hatch *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*

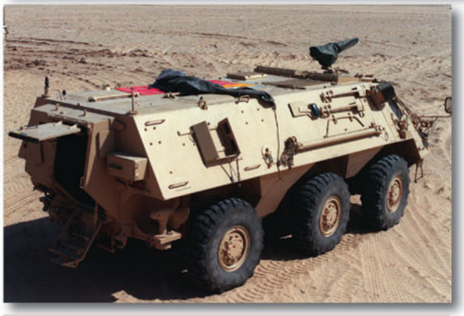
- **TPz 1 - Command and Communications**
  This variant is designed as a command vehicle it is equipped with grounded long range antenna for radio communications. The vehicle is fitted with a 5 kW generator or APU in the rear door. This unit provides power to run all the vehicles systems. Map board, folding tables and seating is also provided.
- **TPz 1 - Command and Communications - Engineers**
- **TPz 1 A4A1 - Ambulance**
  Uparmoured version with MEXAS add on armour
- **TPz 1 A7A1 - Command and Communications**
  This variant is designed as a command vehicle it is equipped with grounded long range antenna for radio communications. The vehicle is fitted with a 5 kW generator or APU in the rear door. This unit provides power to run all the vehicles systems. Map board, folding tables and seating is also provided This vehicle is also fitted with the MEXAS armour upgrade.
- **TPz 1 A7A2 - Ambulance**
- **TPz 1 A7A3 - Armoured Reconnaisance**
  This version is fitted with seating for eight troops and is fitted with a mount for a Milan Firing Post. This mount is fitted to the central hatch of the vehicle. This vehicle is also fitted with the MEXAS armour upgrade. It is also fitted with an RS Lafettenschutz shielded gun mounting, for the commander's hatch.
- **TPz 1 A7A4 - Engineers**
  This variant is designed to carry an engineer squad plus their specialist equipment. It can easily be identified by the two round bins on the roof of the troop compartment. These bins are used to carry rolls of barbed or razor wire. The main hatch over the troop compartment is smaller as well. This vehicle is also fitted with the MEXAS



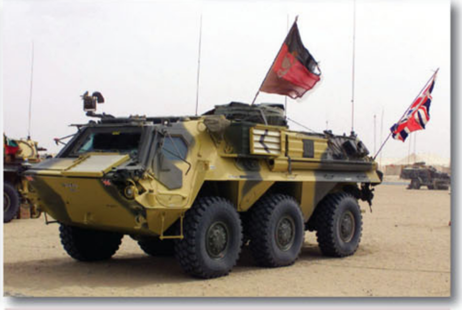
A front view of a TPz I A7A4 *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*



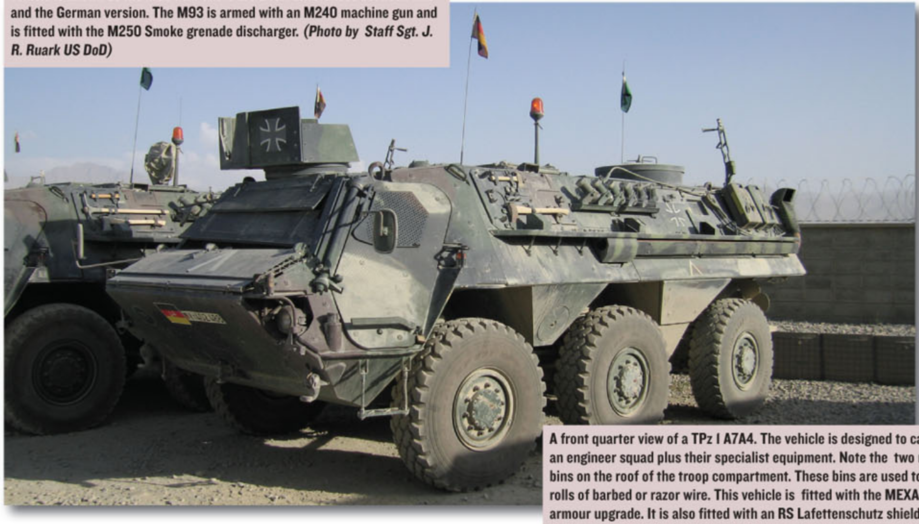
A top view of the M93 Fox NBC reconnaissance vehicle showing the mount for the M240 machine gun and the M250 smoke grenade launchers. *(Photo by Staff Sgt. J. R. Ruark US DoD)*



A side view of the TPz IA6 ABC Spurpanzer NBC reconnaissance system. This particular vehicle being in service with the US Army. In US service the vehicle is known as the M93 Fox. There are a few differences between this and the German version. The M93 is armed with an M240 machine gun and is fitted with the M250 Smoke grenade discharger. *(Photo by Staff Sgt. J. R. Ruark US DoD)*



The TPz IA6 ABC Spurpanzer NBC reconnaissance system, this time in British service. *(Photo by SGT KEVIN R. REED, USMC)*



A front quarter view of a TPz I A7A4. The vehicle is designed to carry an engineer squad plus their specialist equipment. Note the two round bins on the roof of the troop compartment. These bins are used to carry rolls of barbed or razor wire. This vehicle is fitted with the MEXAS armour upgrade. It is also fitted with an RS Lafettenschutz shielded gun mounting, for the Commander's hatch. *(Photo by Bjoern Klausen)* armour upgrade. It is also fitted with an RS Lafettenschutz shielded gun mounting, for the commanders hatch.

- **TPz 1 A7A5 - Command and Communications – Engineers**
  This variant is used as a command vehicle in engineer units. It differs externally from the standard engineer Fuchs as the central hatch over the troop compartment has been removed as have the barbwire carriers.
- **TPz 1 A7A6 - Command and Control**
- **TPz 1 A7A7 - Command and Control**

NBC VARIANT

- **TPz 1A6 - NBC Reconnaisance**
  This variant is designed to seek out, analyse and mark off areas contaminated by Nuclear, Biological or Chemical weapons. The equipment carried by this Fuchs enables its crew to work for 24 hours in complete protection from an NBC environment.
  This vehicle is one of the most sophisticated of its type in the world and was used by British and US forces during the Gulf War.
- **TPz 1A6A1 - NBC Reconnaisance – improved**
  This variant is basically the same as above but it is also fitted with a GPS system and a sensor mast on the left hand side of the troop compartment.

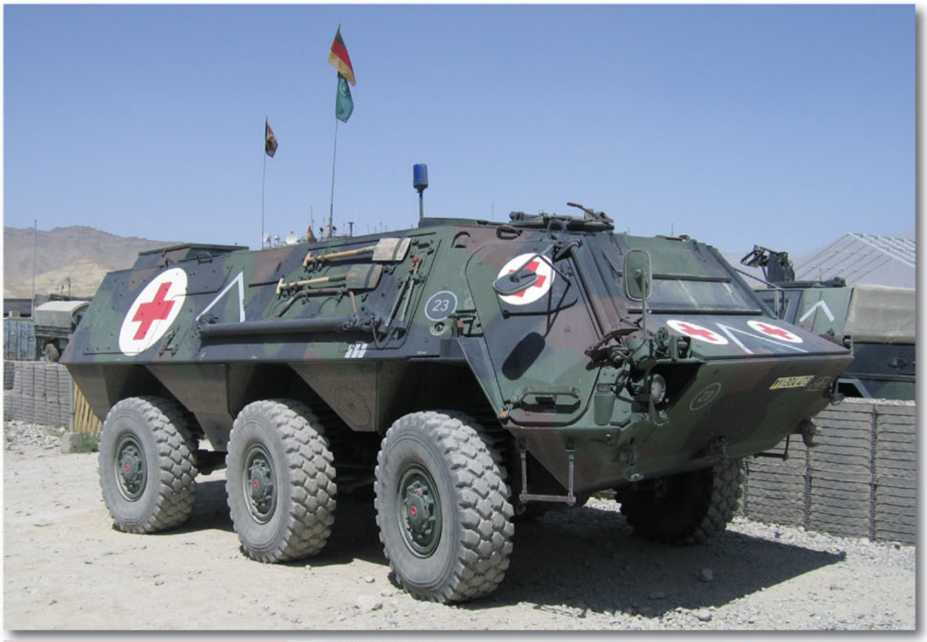
ELECTRONIC WARFARE

- **TPz 1A1 - Eloka RS HUMMEL Jammer**
  This variant is fitted with a radio jamming kit that works in three frequency bands. HF, VHF and UHF and can jam several frequencies at once. It is fitted with a 5 kW APU in the rear door. The Hummel has no amphibious capability.
- **TPz 1A1 - RS Direction Finder**
  This variant is fitted with a VHF directional Finder unit and a telescoping mast aerial. It usually operates with one or more Elokas.

COLOUR SCHEMES

The TPz 1 Fuchs is usually finished in the standard NATO 3 colour scheme. There are only two exceptions to this:

1. Those vehicles that are serving in UN Peace Keeping Operations are painted overall white with the letters "UN" displayed .
2. Some Fuchs serving with ISAF in Afghanistan have been seen painted overall sand or a number of variations of desert camoflage. One such variant replaced the black colour of the NATO scheme with a sand colour. ■



A TPz 1A7A2 Ambulance. Note the lack of armament. This vehicle was at Camp Warehouse, Kabul, Afghanistan *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*

Sources:

A special thanks goes to Bjoern Klausen who provided many of the photos that were used in this Think Tank. The photos were all taken by him at Camp Warehouse, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Gert Burket-Opitz & Clemens Niesner, The Vehicles of the German Army in Afghanistan, NO.7001, Tankograd Publishing.

Jochen Vollert, FUCHS, The Transportpanzer TPz 1 of the German Army, No. 5001, Tankograd Publishing.

David R Haugh, FUCHS Transportpanzer (TPz1) and Variants. Museum Ordnance Special Number 5

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www.howitzer.dk/ WELCOME TO HOWITZER.DK

www.panzerbaer.de (The German language website for military modellers)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TPz_Fuchs TPz 1 Fuchs

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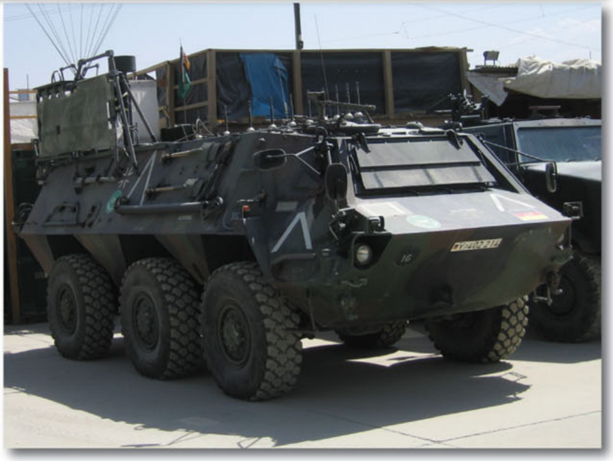
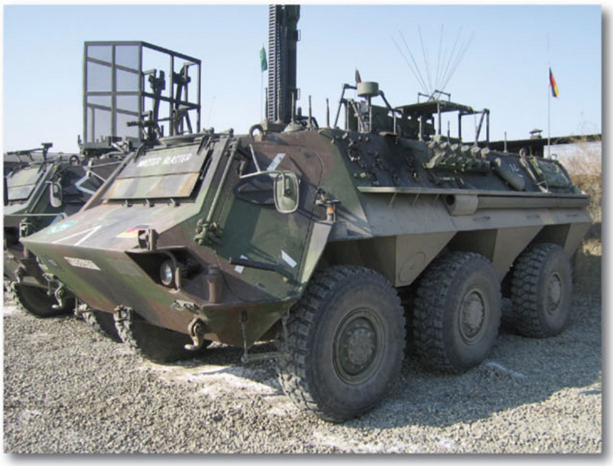


The TPz 1A1 Eloka, electronic warfare vehicle, sometimes refered to as Hummel. Note the aerials on the roof *(photo by Bjoern Klausen)*



A front quarter view of a TPz 1A1 Hummel. This vehicle does not have an amphibious capability. Note the absence of propellers at the rear of the vehicle.

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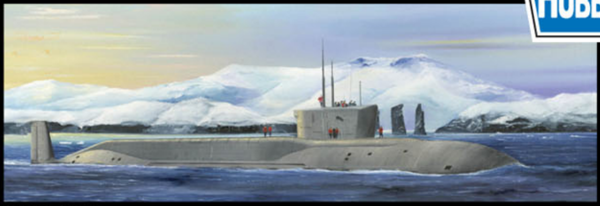
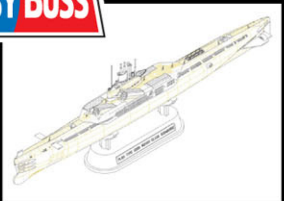
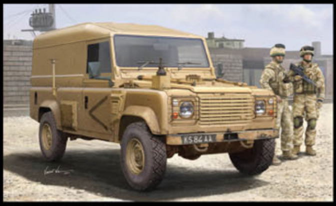
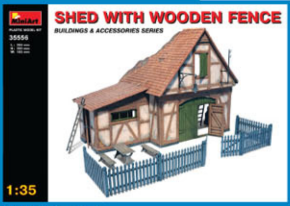

HBB83520
1:350 Russian Navy Project 955 Borei-Yuri Dolgoruky SSBN


HBB83516
1:350 PLA Type 033G Wuhan Class


HBB82448
1:35 Defender 110 Hard Top

MiniArt

CLOSE COMBAT. U.S. TANK CREW
MiniArt
35135
1:35
MIN35135
1:35 Close Combat U.S. Tank Crew

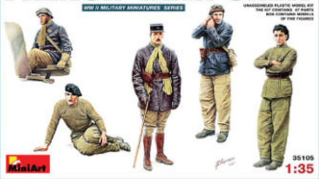

SHED WITH WOODEN FENCE
BUILDINGS & ACCESSORIES SERIES
MiniArt
35556
1:35
MIN35556
1:35 Shed With Wooden Fence

GERMAN TANK CREW
NORMANDY 1944
MiniArt
35132
1:35
MIN35132
1:35 German Tank Crew (Normandy 1944)

VALENTINE Mk.VI CANADIAN-BUILT
EARLY PROD.
1:35
35123
MiniArt
MIN35123
1:35 Valentine Mk.VI Canadian-Built Early Prod.

BRITISH TANK RIDERS
(NW EUROPE)
MiniArt
35118
1:35
MIN35118
1:35 British Tank Riders (NW Europe)

RUSSIAN STREET
DIORAMAS SERIES
MiniArt
36026
1:35
MIN36026
1:35 Russian Street


FRENCH TANK CREW
MiniArt
35105
1:35
MIN35105
1:35 French Tank Crew

MB TYPE 170V
Personenwagen
35095
1:35
MiniArt
MIN35095
1:35 MB Type 170V Personenwagen

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PLU338
1:35 Soviet Earthmover Belorus

PLU384 1:35 City Blocks - short

PLU401 1:35 Ladders

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1:35 Railway Water Pump

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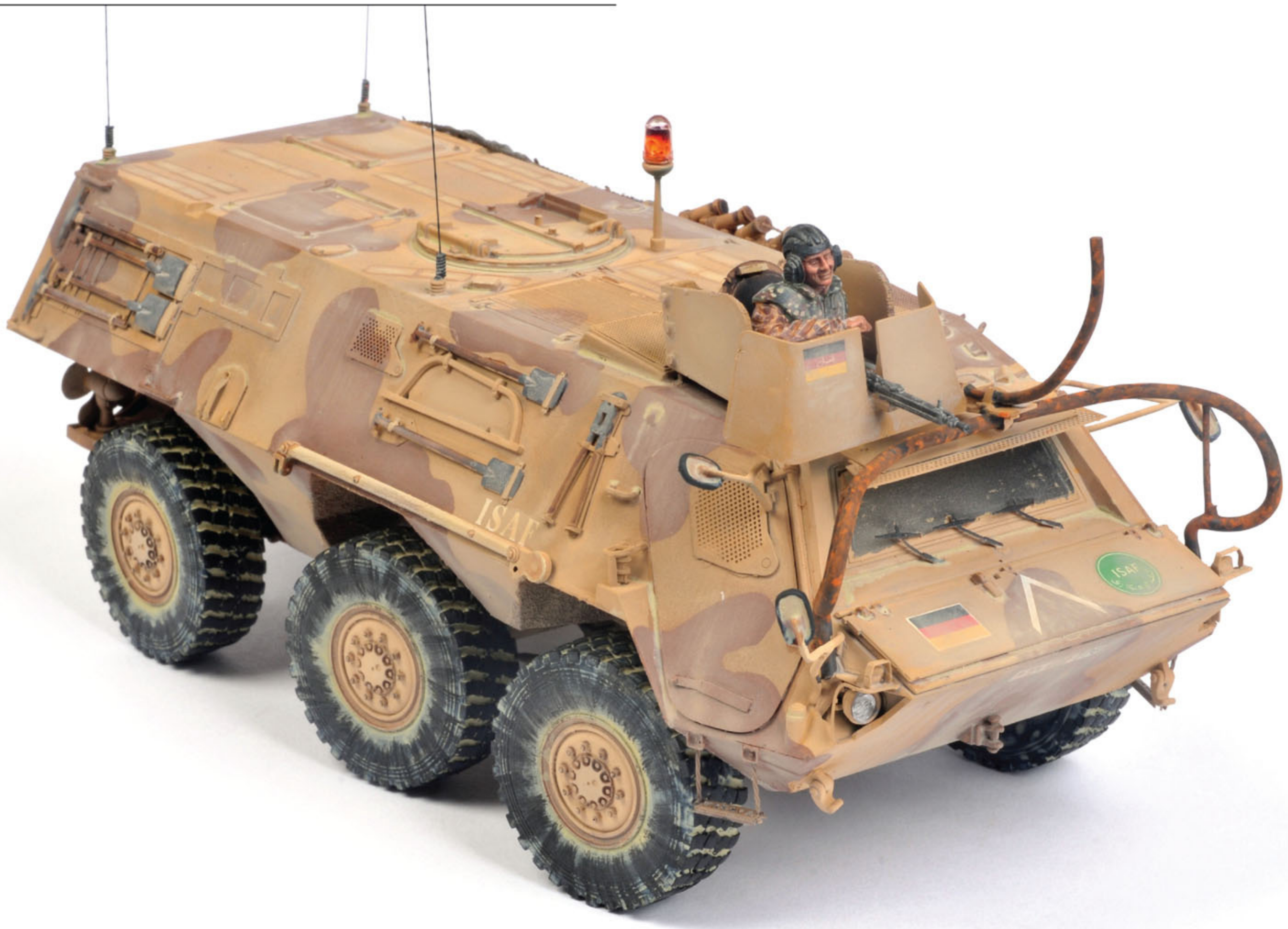


AFGHAN RHINO

Andrew Judson converts and customises Revell's 1:35 scale Fuchs into a unique TPZ-1 A4 variant on front line duties in Afghanistan.

Of late, I have really taken an interest in modern vehicles currently in front line service. This one is the TPZ-1 Fuchs A4, serving with the German Bundeswehr in Afghanistan with ISAF. It started out as the Revell TPZ-1 Fuchs A6, NBC, but this was not the variant I wanted to build, so with a little research and some aftermarket goodies I was able to achieve what you see here now.

SO MUCH PHOTO-ETCH, SO LITTLE TIME...

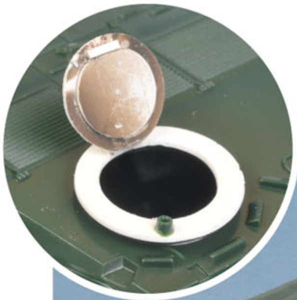
The aftermarket items used in this project were Voyager set PE35052, Eduard set 35244, MR Modellbau resin wheels and lastly, Bison Decals 35123 for ISAF in Afghanistan.

Some may ask, why punish yourself with two photo-etched sets? Well, both are excellent products, but there are things in each that I wanted to use like the engine screens from Eduard and also the armoured screens, though the Voyager set had beautiful brass and resin smoke dischargers and tool racks. There were also a lot of other items used from both sets.

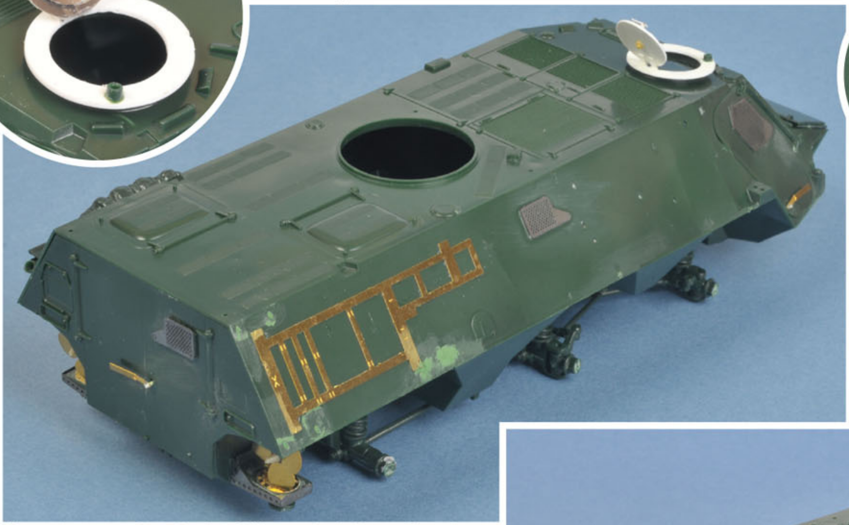
After looking at what I had to work with, it was time to start the

BISON DECALS
35123
ISAF in Afghanistan
Generic markings
ISAF
eduard
MR Modellbau

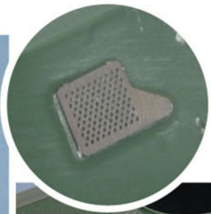
▶ Accessories for this project were sourced from Eduard and Voyager for the photo-etched parts, MR Modellbau for the wheels and Bison Decals.



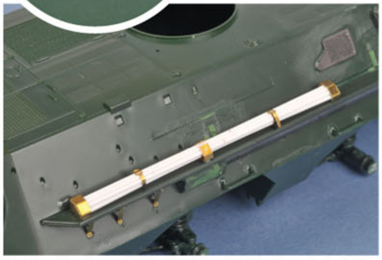
The modified cupola.



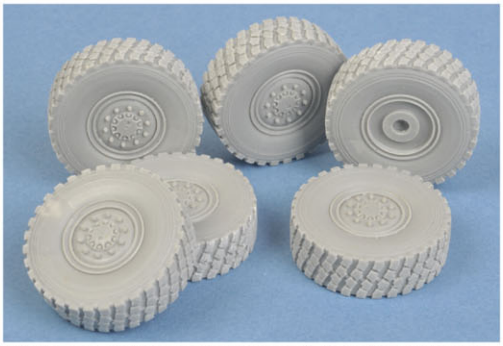
The one-piece upper and one-piece lower hulls meant that basic assembly was fast. Fit was generally very good.



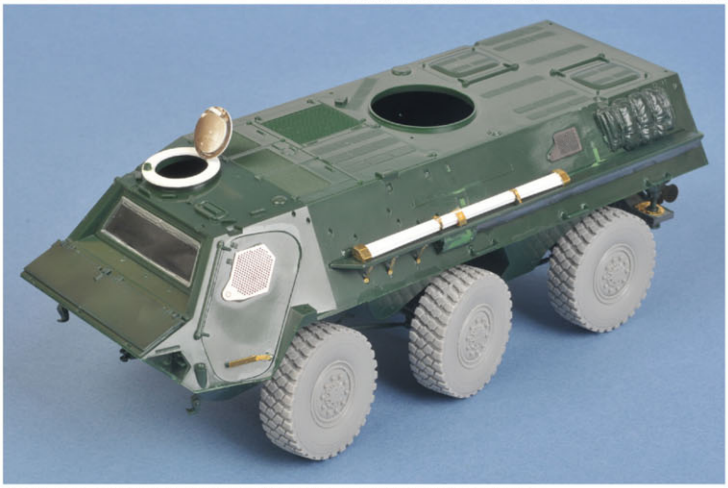
Eduard photo-etched exterior parts break up the large surfaces.



Plastic rod has been added to the photo-etched racks on the hull sides.

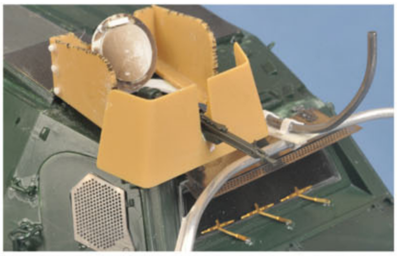


MR Modellbau's wheels are flawlessly cast and a definite improvement over Revell's kit parts.

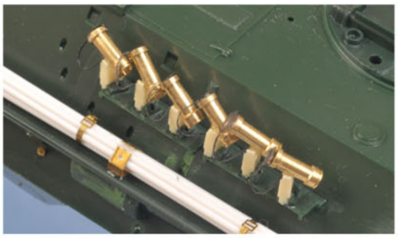


The wheels are test fitted here. They will be offset to the right to lend some interest to the pose.

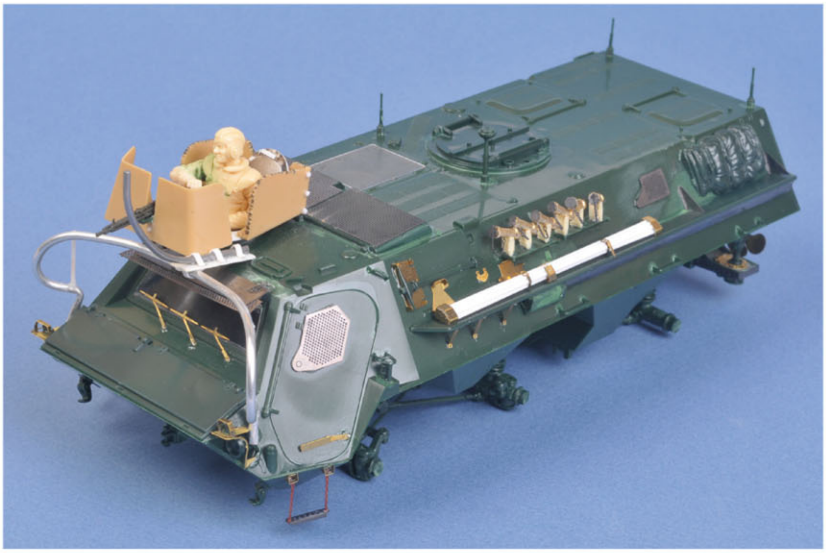
> **"Most vehicles in Afghanistan have a single colour camouflage, but this one has a two-tone hard edge scheme. It is always a challenge to make these multi-colour schemes look the part..."**



Rhino charging! The unique guard on the front of the vehicle was bent from solid brass rod and 3mm alloy tube, with plastic support rods at the sides.



Voyager's cast brass smoke dischargers are little gems.



The Jaguar figure is test fitted in the machine gun station.

◀ build, beginning with assembling the two body halves and then constructing the underside, with all the running gear.

I decided to give myself the extra challenge of turning the front wheels off to the side to deliver a more interesting look. Right through this stage I had to ensure all was evenly turned or it would look completely out of whack and the wheels would not all be on the ground. After constant checking and measuring, it all worked out well for me. Phew!

Next was the upper half. Although there was not really that much work involved, it was time consuming as I was always checking my reference photos to ensure that I was putting all those photo-etched bits in the right place. This was especially important as the variant I was building was different to that in the box, as was the placement of tools and equipment. The end result gave me an A4 instead of an A6.

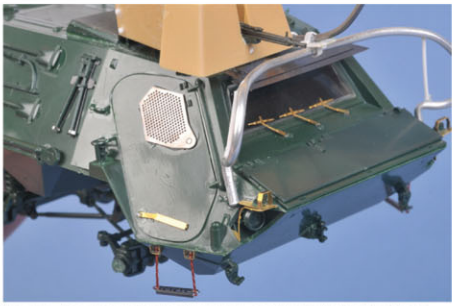
Although all the main work was done, I still had to build the front weapon station. As I wanted to depict a vehicle in Afghanistan, I just had to build an armoured type. Studying photos, I found as many variations as were seen in the Iraq conflict. There are many types of field modifications being made to all vehicles. The type I ended going with had front side and rear protection, and to build this I used Evergreen plastic sheet and parts from my spares box, including parts from a Sheridan tank. I then made up a new gun mount and placed the machine gun. Once that was done, I added the final touch and, using a hot scalpel, etched cut marks in the steel.

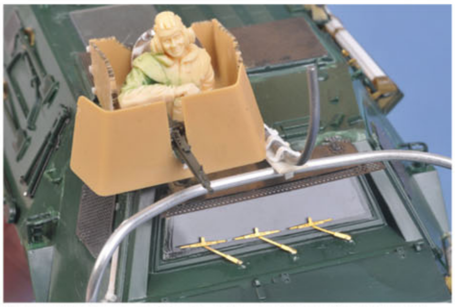
THE RHINO TRANSFORMATION

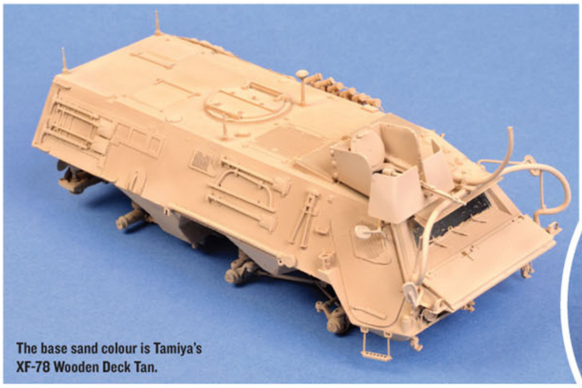
At this stage I thought I was all done with construction until my good mate, Stuart Ransley, showed me a picture of a Fuchs in Afghanistan with a large frame around the windscreen and a very menacing looking cable cutter that looked like a Rhino horn. It looked so impressive that I could not resist adding the frame.

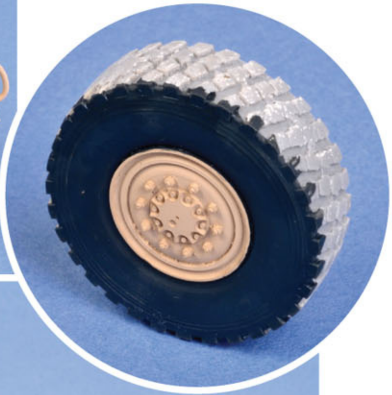
I started with a length of 3 mm alloy tube and slowly began to bend it to make the windscreen shield, using a touch of heat to prevent creasing. A solid length of brass rod was used make the rhino horn. The resulting structure was mounted on plastic sheet.

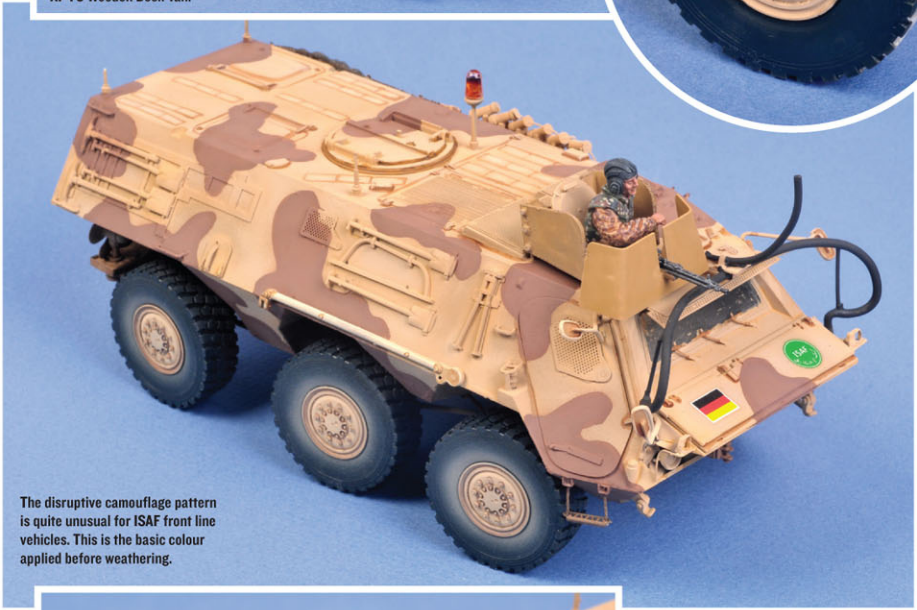
I then cut lengths of plastic rod to put inside the screen section as support rods. The final step was mounting the structure onto the kit, which took a little re-bending and then gluing onto the kit at the sides and top, onto the roof. Now construction really was finished.


The many fine photo-etched parts were sourced from both the Eduard and Voyager detail sets.

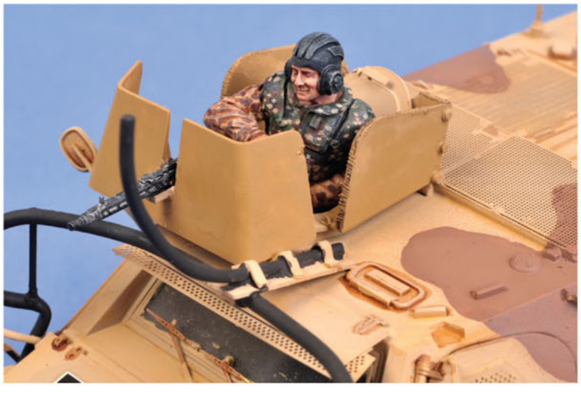

The large parts for the machine gun station were liberated from the spares box, including elements from a Sheridan tank.


The base sand colour is Tamiya's XF-78 Wooden Deck Tan.


The resin wheels during the painting process. The hubs were painted first, followed by careful brush painting on the tyres' sidewalls. The tread area will be sprayed later.



The disruptive camouflage pattern is quite unusual for ISAF front line vehicles. This is the basic colour applied before weathering.


The crew figure has been painted up to represent the standard Pea pattern body armour and desert style camouflage uniform.

AFGHAN CAMOUFLAGE

Painting this kit was a lot of fun. Most vehicles in Afghanistan have a single colour camouflage, but this one has a two-tone hard edge scheme. It is always a challenge to make these multi-colour schemes look the part. The base colour used for this was Tamiya acrylic XF-78 Wood Deck Tan, sprayed with my trusty old Aztek A470 Airbrush, followed by a patchy overcoat of Tamiya XF-57 Buff. The camouflage came next, using my excellent Badger Renegade Velocity airbrush with a mix of Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown and a small amount of XF-57 Buff sprayed on with a fine setting, so as to be able to put on a near hard edge pattern working from the edge inwards. This was followed by painting around the edge with a fine pointed brush to produce a hard demarcation line. Three layers of Mig Filter - Grey for Dark Yellow - brought the colours together.

I then applied a dark brown pin wash, again from Mig, and allowed this to dry, followed by another very light patchy coat of Buff.

Now for the markings. I used the excellent set from Bison. Gunze Mr Mark Softer solution was brushed over the decals after application, followed by a coat of Mig tint to blend in with the paint finish.

Lastly was the weathering, for which I used both earth toned paints and a wet mix of Pro Modeller on both the body and wheels, resulting in what I think is a pretty convincing finish. Finally, a subtle going over with Mig Rainmarks gave the vehicle a bit of streaking.

I painted the additional screen in Dark Brown and then a mix of Mig Pigments Light Rust, as I wanted this to appear to be a field modification.

The figure in the gun station was added to lend a sense of scale to the vehicle.

He is from Jaguar, painted to represent the standard Pea pattern body armour and desert style cams. I modified his arm so that it was resting on top of the MG, giving him a pretty casual look, maybe retuning back to base after a patrol back to a safe zone.

CONCLUSION

This was a fun project to work on, and I am quite happy with the end result.

Thanks go to Stuart Ransley for the pics and to Brett Green for his advice on some of the weathering finishes and for his excellent photos. ■

Modelspec

Revell 1:35 scale TPZ-1 Fuchs A6 NBC Kit No. 03038

Accessories Used

Voyager photo-etched set PE35052, Eduard 35244, MR Modellbau Wheels, Bison Decals 35123

Paints and Finishing Products

Tamiya acrylics - XF-78 Wood Deck Tan; XF-57 Buff; XF-64 Red Brown

Mig Productions - Grey for Dark Yellow Tint; Dark Brown Wash; Light Rust Pigment

Pro Modeller - Green Earth Pigment

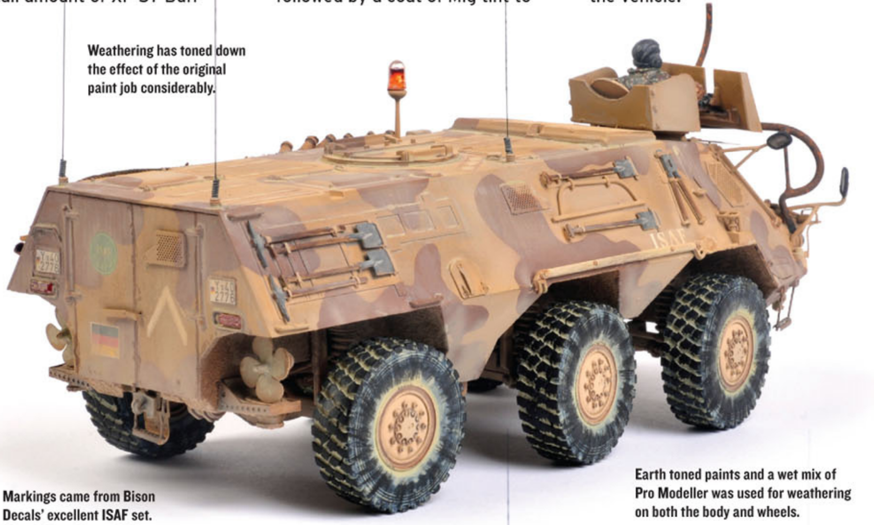
✓ Good base kit, fun project; amazing detail with the addition of Voyager and Eduard sets.

✗ Plastic a little brittle, some very fiddly photo-etch in the Voyager set.

Available from

Revell kits are available online from Hannants
www.hannants.co.uk

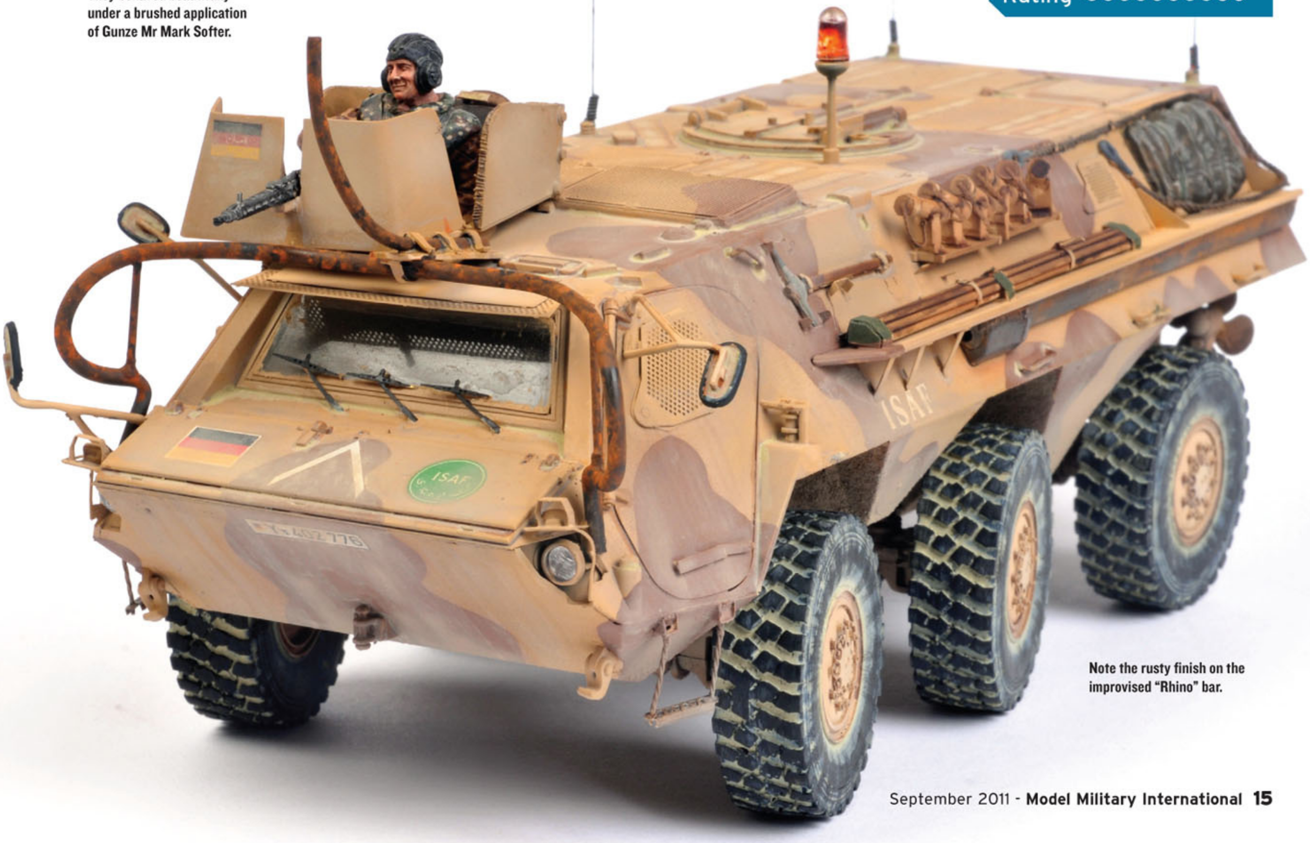
Rating ●●●●●●●●○○



Weathering has toned down the effect of the original paint job considerably.

Markings came from Bison Decals' excellent ISAF set. They behaved beautifully under a brushed application of Gunze Mr Mark Softer.

Earth toned paints and a wet mix of Pro Modeller was used for weathering on both the body and wheels.



Note the rusty finish on the improvised "Rhino" bar.

KIT PREVIEW Tamiya British 25 Pdr. Field Gun and Quad Gun Tractor • Kit No. 35044

A 25 POUND BLAST FROM THE PAST

BRITISH 25PDR. FIELD GUN & QUAD GUN TRACTOR CANADIAN FORD F.G.T.
TAMIYA

Great Britain started producing dedicated artillery tractors in the late 1930s in order to replace horse drawn artillery teams. The distinctively boxy Guy Ant 4x4 Field Artillery Tractor, also dubbed the Quad gun tractor, was the first of a prolific family of vehicles that would eventually be built in large numbers, in the UK and also in Canada. These FATs were based on both Chevrolet and Ford chassis.

Quad Gun Tractors were responsible for pulling 18 pdr, 20 pdr and often the famous 25 pdr gun.

The British Ordnance QF 25 pdr gun first entered service in 1940. It eventually became one of the most versatile and widely serving weapons in British inventory, remaining in international front line service until the 21st century. The most recent combat use of the 25 pdr was by Kurdish militia in northern Iraq during 2003.

Along with its full sized counterparts, Tamiya's 1:35 scale Quad Tractor and 25 Pdr combination must have surely earned the accolade "classic".

Originally released around 1974, this time around we get exactly what we did back then, although in 2011 this modeller is no longer wearing flared jeans and has significantly less hair.

Fortunately, the Quad and 25 pdr was a great kit in its day and it has held up well over the intervening decades.

The Quad tractor offers an engine, chassis detail, seats and driver's controls; all of which are a good basis for further detailing if desired. The windows are separate parts and are secured from the inside. The large side doors are separate too, and may be posed open. A tonneau is supplied as well, although this can be left off to display even more of the interior. Fabric texture on the tonneau is quite good.

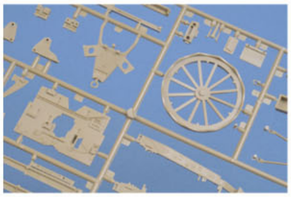
The wheels and tyres are all plastic, and do not feature any flat spots or bulging. There is no provision in the kit for turning the wheels.

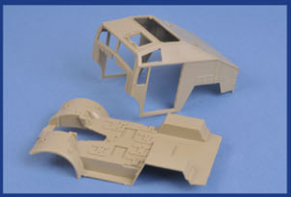
The 25 pdr gun is simple but generally accurate. The breech block may be left to move, and the choice of a muzzle brake or a plain hollowed end is offered.

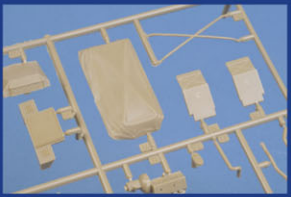
A firing platform, limber and stowage are also provided.

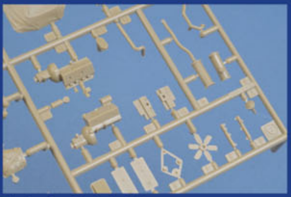
Markings are offered for several Canadian and British units, with a Mickey Mouse camouflage pattern being one of the options.

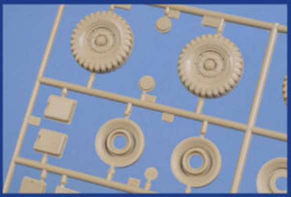
Even more than 35 years after release, this is the only game in town for a 1:35 scale Quad Tractor and 25 pdr as an injection kit. Fortunately, it is still well worth building. ■


A Limber and firing platform are also included.


The one-piece upper body makes construction a snap.


A nicely moulded tonneau is provided for the opening in the top of the body.


Engine detail is included.


All-plastic wheels. Wouldn't it be nice if all kits had them these days?

The Editor examines two kits that have done the rounds, but are still worth building more than three decades after their original release.

KIT PREVIEW Tamiya 6 x 4 Truck Krupp Protze (Kfz.70) • Kit No. 35317

KRUPP-SCHNAUZER

6×4 TRUCK KRUPP PROTZE (Kfz.70)
PERSONNEL CARRIER
TAMIYA

Tamiya's Krupp Protze 6 x 4 truck was originally released in 1978, but the Japanese company was hitting top form at this stage and it was really an excellent kit at the time.

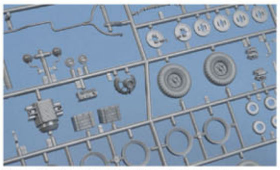
Now, in 2011, Tamiya has also thrown in two more crew figures plus some Soviet and German weapons; although the weapons sprue in silver plastic dates from 1979.

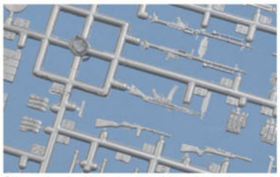
The Tamiya Krupp Protze still compares well to many new kits. The interior and seating detail is very good, as is the engine and the all-plastic wheels. Similar to the Quad tractor, though, the steering is fixed in the straight-ahead position.

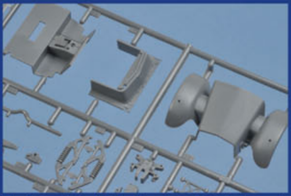
Although three figures are supplied, they have not stood the test of time quite as well as the vehicle itself. The chunky driver would best be replaced, while a couple of new heads will be helpful for the two crew figures riding in the cargo bay.

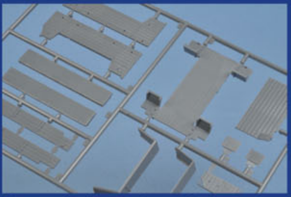
Some of the detail such as tools and feeler poles are a bit chunky, but there are plenty of after market detail sets available to deliver a state of the art model from this older kit.

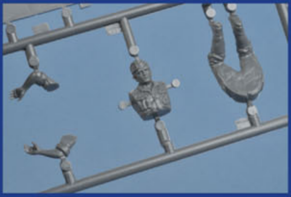
Once again, this is the only game in town for a Krupp Protze in 1:35 scale, and it is still worthwhile today. ■


The wheels, engine detail and stowage are really good.


Silver plastic. Now that is a blast from the past!


The forward body is broken down into the bonnet and driver's compartment.


The cargo bay features nice woodgrain texture and seating, but watch out for ejector pin marks.


This guy has seen better days.

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

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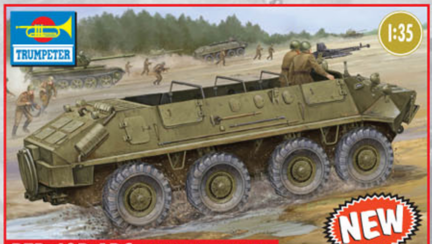
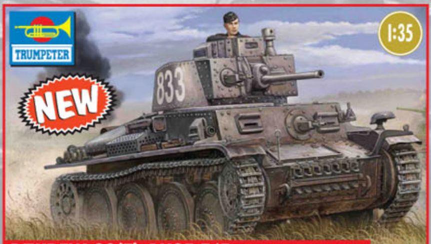
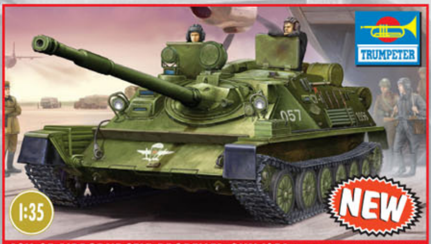

TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW

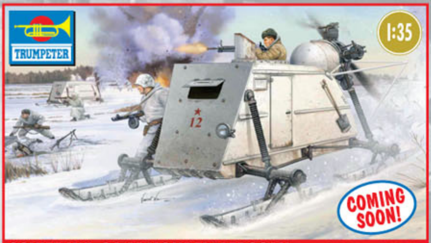
BTR-60P APC TM01542 £29.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW
833

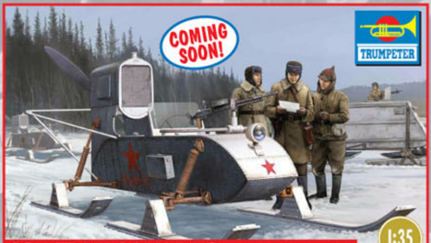
PZKPFW 38(T) AUSF E/F TM01577 £21.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW

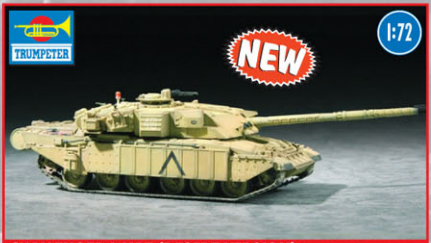
ASU-85 AIRBORNE SELF-PROPELLED GUN 1956 TM01588 £25.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
COMING SOON!

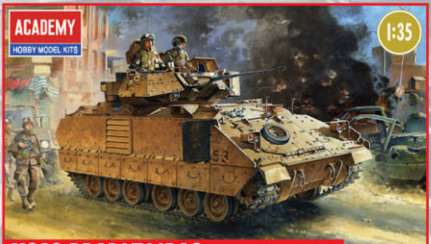
SOVIET NKL-26 ARMOURED AEROSAN TM02321 £13.99


COMING SOON!
TRUMPETER
1:35

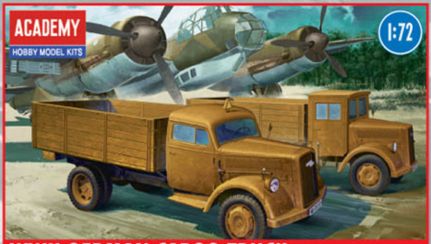
SOVIET AEROSAN RF-8 TM02322 £6.99


TRUMPETER
NEW
1:72

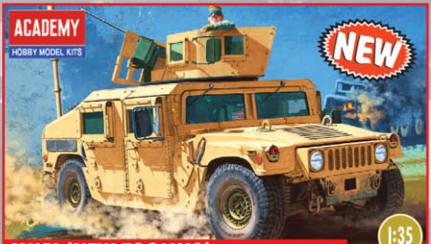
CHALLENGER I MBT (DESERT VERSION) TM07105 £9.99


ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:35

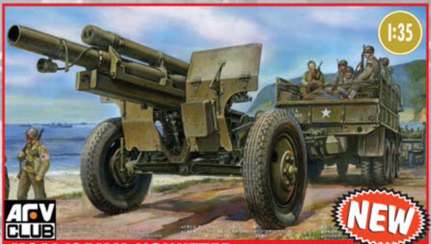
M2A2 BRADLEY IRAQ AY13205 £22.49


ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:72

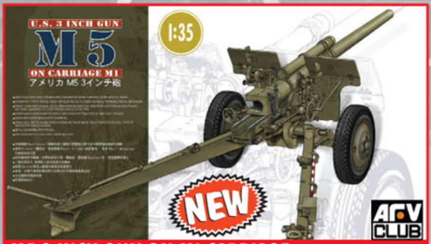
WWII GERMAN CARGO TRUCK AY13404 £9.99


ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
NEW
1:35

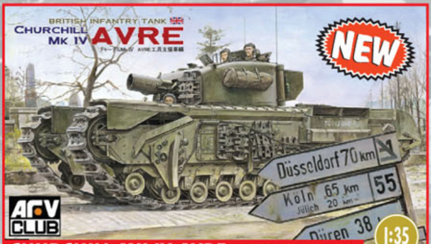
MI151 (NEW TOOLING) AY13415 £23.99


1:35
AFV CLUB
NEW

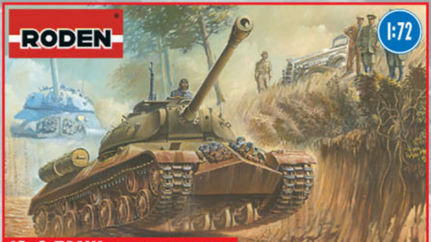
M2AI 105MM HOWITZER AF35160 £25.99


U.S. 3 INCH GUN
M5
ON CARRIAGE M1
1:35
NEW
AFV CLUB

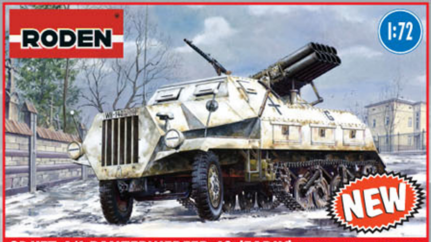
M5 3 INCH GUN ON MI CARRIAGE AF35S64 £26.99


BRITISH INFANTRY TANK
CHURCHILL Mk IV AVRE
NEW
Düsseldorf 70 km
Köln 65 km
Jülich 20 km
55
Düren 38
AFV CLUB
1:35

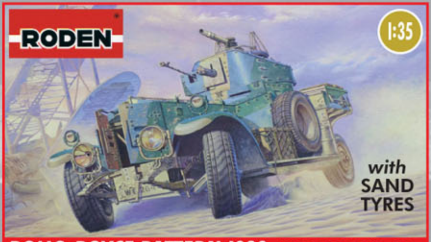
CHURCHILL MK IV AVRE AF35169 £45.99



IS-3 TANK URO-701 £8.99


RODEN
1:72
NEW

SDKFZ 4/I PANZERWERFER 42 (EARLY) URO-712 £12.99


RODEN
1:35
with SAND TYRES

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AMPS 2011

Scott Taylor visits North America's foremost military modelling event, AMPS 2011, held this year at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

AMPS 2011
OOH RAH
MARINE ARMOR
"COME ON YOU SONS OF BITCHES, DO YOU WANT TO LIVE FOREVER?"
FIRST SERGEANT

This year's convention was located not far from the National Museum of the Marine Corps. One of the highlights of this superb museum are its 1:1 scale dioramas depicting famous Marine actions like the invasion of Tarawa.

The 2011 Armor Modeling and Preservation Society International Convention took place on the weekend of April 6-9, 2011 at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House in Fredericksburg, Virginia. This year's theme, "Marine Armour," was chosen to tie in with the convention's proximity to the National Museum of the United States Marine Corps, which was one of the armour museums that convention attendees could visit; any military vehicle used by any sea-based armed forces from around the world was eligible for the theme award.

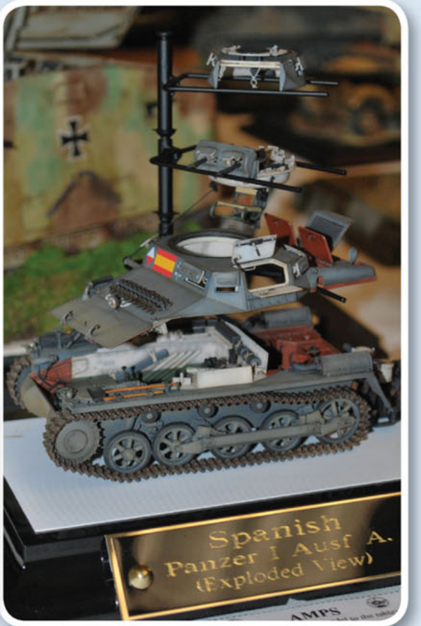
The AMPS convention plays an important role within the organization, both as a means to bring much of the membership together to meet in person (vital for a "virtual club" like AMPS) and as a recruiting opportunity for modellers in the area of the convention. The show always has a very friendly, relaxed feel to it as friends who see each other only once a year get reacquainted and "talk shop." The competition is also critical, and is how AMPS sets itself apart from some other modelling organizations. In the open system used, models are scored against a set of fixed criteria, and medals are awarded according to the model's score, not relative to other models in the same category – thus, one could (and often do) end up with a number of gold medal winners in the same category. The judging system is designed so that every modeller receives written feedback on his or her model, thus pointing out ways that they can improve their work. Some feel that these feedback forms are more important than the medals that a model might win.

This year's convention was different from any previous one in that it was held at a hotel, thereby allowing attendees to go to the show without having to leave the building. This was certainly an advantage to many, but the layout of the hotel meant that the seminar room and some of the vendors were in a separate area from the rest of the show. Although the show venue itself was not in an armour museum, like last year's show in Auburn, Indiana, northern Virginia does have some great destinations for tank geeks. AMPS arranged visits to two impressive museums in the area. On the Wednesday before the show officially opened, attendees visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia, adjacent to the Marine Base at Quantico. As well as the spectacular museum itself, some AMPS members were also able to see some of the Museum's extensive restoration and artefact storage facilities. On Thursday there was the rare opportunity to visit the "Tank Farm" of the Virginia Museum of Military vehicles, an extensive private collection of mostly running armoured vehicles. Among the vehicles currently in restoration is a M1917 6-Ton Light Tank, the US-built version of the FT-17, and an M10 tank destroyer that is a genuine combat veteran from World War II.

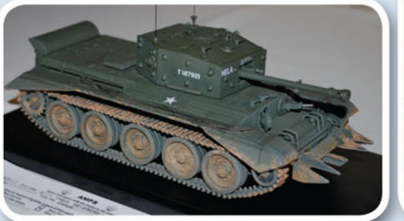
There was a full slate of seminars offered by some big names this year, covering a wide variety of modelling and research topics. In keeping with the show's theme, Ed Gilbert, Jim Mesko and David Vickers gave talks on the history of US Marine armour, World War II Pacific armour and Shermans at Tarawa, respectively. Neil Stokes gave a nice overview of the IS/ISU family, while Cookie Sewell looked at the history of the T-72 and Tom Jentz offered ▶

Some convention attendees got a behind the scenes look at the National Museum of the Marine Corps' restoration and storage facilities on the Wednesday before the show. This T-34/85, captured by the Marines during the Korean War, is being inspected by a number of modellers, including AMPS Chief Judge Mike Petty, AMPS President Danny Egan, and Jose Rodriguez of Tiger Productions.

The restoration team at the Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles have a wry sense of humour: this sign was seen on the M10 tank destroyer that is currently being restored.

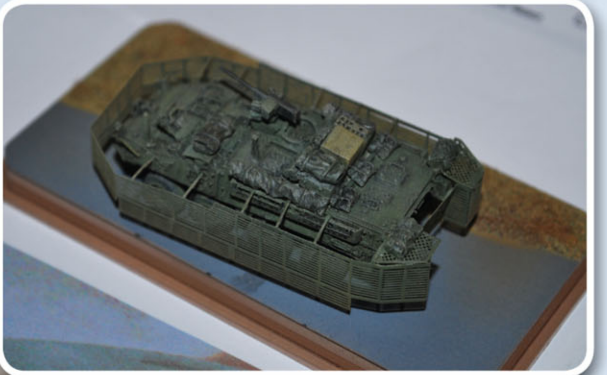


This year's winner of the Judges' Best of Show award was Manny Rodriguez for this amazing Tristar 1:35 scale exploded view Spanish Panzer I. This model also won the Best Small Armies award.

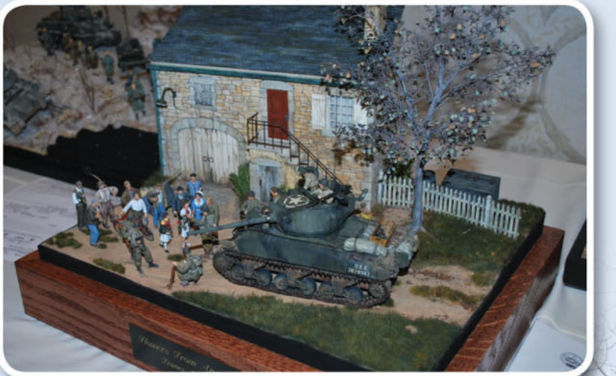


Grant Taylor won the Best Junior award with his Tamiya 1:35 scale Cromwell (proud Dad here!).

Ted Paris of Commander's Models had a number of new and old resin kits available, including this impressive 1:16 scale Christie T3 Medium Tank.



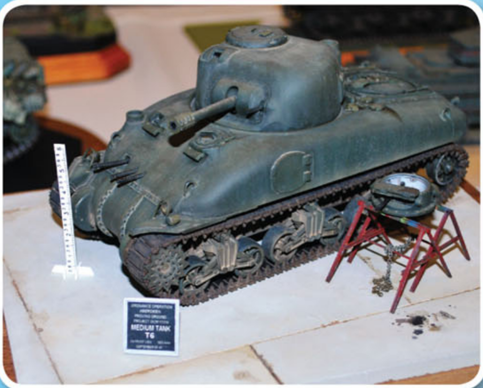
Slat armour is intimidating in any scale, but in 1:144 it's downright crazy! Chris Ekstrom won the Small Scalers' Choice Best Small Scale Model award with this 1:144 scale M1126 Stryker with slat armor.



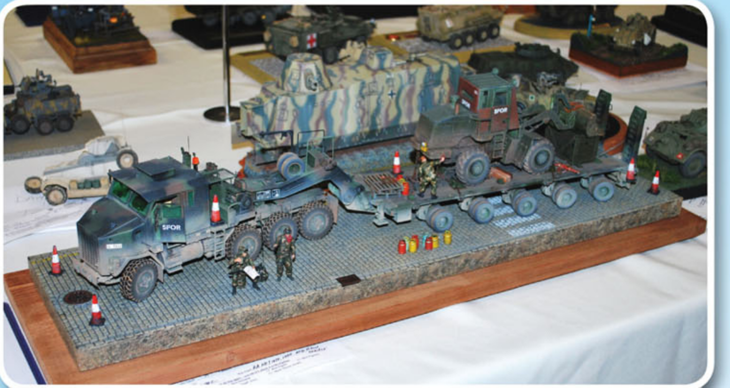
David Vickers won the People's Choice Award and Best Diorama this year with "Flowers From Angels," a 1:35 scale diorama depicting American GIs and an M4A1(76) Sherman being welcomed by French civilians.

US ARMY 12C126
23

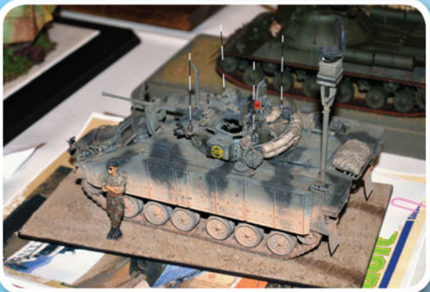
The Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles opened its doors on Thursday morning for an AMPS tour. Among the many vehicles in the museum's collection is this immaculate M42 Duster that was driven out of its hangar.



As always, there were plenty of Shermans on the table. This one used Tiger Models' 1:35 scale conversion to make the T6 prototype with an attractive base depicting the vehicle at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in 1941.



Accurate Armour's 1:35 scale M1070 HET makes for an impressive model. This one, built by Michael Powers, has a MIG Productions front end loader for a payload.



Jim Weschler's Warrior Mechanized Artillery Observation Vehicle, converted from the Academy 1:35 Warrior APC kit, won Best Commonwealth Subject.

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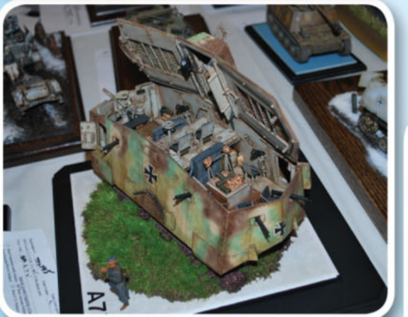
The Squadron table had examples of some of the latest Trumpeter and Hobby boss armour kits on display; these were donated to the raffle table at the end of the show. Two new armour books were also announced at the show.

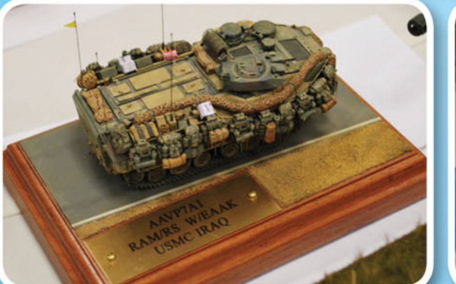
DAVE HARPER AWARD
2011 AMPS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
THEME AWARD
BEST MARINE CORPS SUBJECT

The theme for this year's convention was "Marine Armour"; any armoured vehicle used by sea-based armed forces from around the world was eligible. The award, named after noted Marine armour historian David Harper who passed away suddenly last fall, is made from the end connector from a Marine M60A1 that fought in Operation Desert Storm; the presentation of an end connector to retiring tankers is a tradition among US Marine tank units.

This year's impressive lineup of seminars included a two-part presentation by Mig Jimenez, who came over from Spain to demonstrate weathering. Mig (at right) also took time in the display room to talk techniques with fellow modellers.

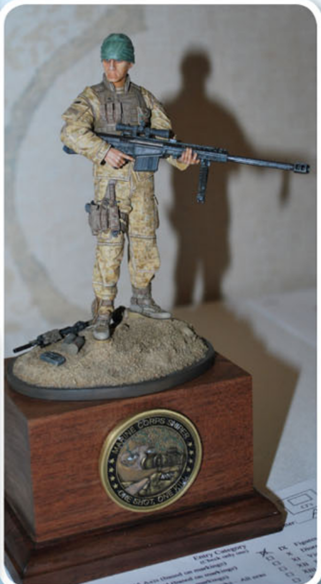


Tauro's old 1:35 A7V German World War I tank kit is a notoriously difficult model to assemble. This example had a lot work put into it, including a fully detailed interior.



Joe Koenig's exquisitely detailed Dragon 1:72 AAVP-7A1 picked up the Best Marine Armor award for the show.

The AMPS Ground Zero chapter from Aberdeen, Maryland put together this display of Marine Shermans in honour of the show's theme.



This 120mm USMC Sniper from SK Miniatures took Best Figure honours for its builder, Pearce Browning.

Jim Weschler also built this 1:35 M32B1 with T1E1 Earthworm mine roller.

T-28 Eh Karelian Isthmus, February 1940

This 1:35 T-28 medium tank, built from the ICM kit to show a Soviet vehicle from the Winter War with Finland, had very effective weathering and a well-done whitewash.

Dartmoor's 1:35 resin and white metal Ferret Mk. 2 Scout Car is not a kit that one sees built very often on this side of the Atlantic.

This Tamiya 1:48 King Tiger had a very striking camouflage scheme.

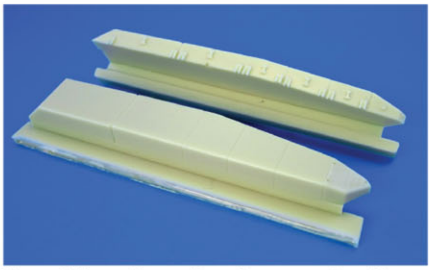
Matt Johnson's 1:35 Komintern tractor and 203mm B4 howitzer won the Best Soviet Subject award.

◀ up some tidbits from his latest research into German WWII armour. Folks looking to improve their modelling skills could listen to Steve Zaloga talk about some of his techniques, and people interested in weathering could see Rick Lawler and John Steinman explain snow and mud or Mig Jimenez demonstrate his innovative finishing and weathering techniques using the AK Interactive line of enamel weathering paints. Taesung Harms from Alpine Miniatures led a hands-on demonstration of figure sculpting, and Ken Schlotfeldt, owner and president of Badger Air Brushes, answered questions about airbrush use, maintenance and troubleshooting.

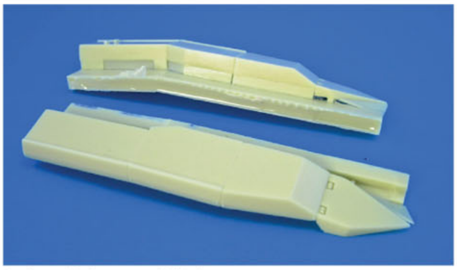
As always, the vending area provided plenty of opportunities for attendees and their money to be parted. One of the great things about coming to a show is that you can actually meet many of the cottage industry manufacturers and see their full line of products in the flesh. Among the resin companies making an appearance at the show were Tiger Models, which was relaunching the former Tiger Model Designs product line and adding some new items, and Commander Series Models, which is coming back with its catalogue of exotic 1:35 full kits plus some new items, including a 1:16 Christie T3 light tank and a 1:35 M7 Medium Tank with interior. Formations, Tank Workshop, Tiger Productions, Verlinden Productions and Chesapeake Model Designs also had their full lines on display. Bill Auerbach had some copies of Panzerwrecks 12, hot off the presses, while Chris and Nancy Mrosko had the full range of New World Miniatures figures on sale, including their excellent new set of WWII US soldiers eating.

In amongst the expected mass of Shermans, Tigers and Panthers on the table were some examples of the newest and latest kits, like the Tamiya BT-7 and Tilly, as well as some older kits like the Renwal 1:40 Honest John The overall quality of models on the tables was very high, with some inspiring pieces on display. In some ways, however, this could actually be seen as a problem. Under the AMPS system, models are judged at one of four skill levels: Junior (for modellers aged 16 and under), Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Once a modeller achieves a Gold medal standard in a given level, he or she moves up to the next level, basically working one's way up the ranks. This year, there were very few Junior entries, and not many Basic entries either. On the one hand, this is good, in that it means that modellers are improving their skills. On the other, though, it seems to indicate that new modellers at 'entry level' are not are not coming in to fill the ranks, and in the long term could pose problems for the sustainability of the hobby. This trend is certainly not unique to AMPS, but is faced by the hobby as a whole, at least in North America.

Overall, this year's AMPS convention was a big success – show chair Ashley Abernathy and his crew ran a very smooth show. While the number of entries was down from last year's all-time high, there were still 501 models on the tables, which is a respectable number considering the show was in a new location. The 2012 AMPS International Convention will return to the WWII Victory Museum in Auburn, Indiana on April 26-28, 2012. This is a superb venue with 20,000 ft2 of space for the show and a collection of over 150 military vehicles. The theme for the 2012 show is "antiaircraft artillery" – any vehicle or ordnance designed to shoot down aircraft qualifies. For more information on AMPS and the show, visit www.amps-armor.org ■



The upgraded Leopard features all-around armour protection to defeat a variety of traditional and non-traditional weapons systems.



Casting quality is very good indeed.

BEEFING UP THE LEOPARD

Jason Bobrowich reviews Y-Modelle's 1:35 scale multimedia Leopard 2A7+ conversion.

Since first entering service back in 1979, the German Leopard 2 has evolved and has been upgraded to enhance firepower, armour protection, crew survivability, battlefield management, and serviceability. Advancements in armour technology, tank gun design, and digital fire control systems and continually being sought by Krauss Maffei Wegmann (KMW) and by the worldwide users of the Leopard 2 series.

Over the past decade and a half the Leopard 2 has seen some significant developments beginning with the Leopard 2A5 providing increased armour protection and advanced fire control systems, then the Leopard 2A6 with increased firepower via the L55 main gun, and now the culmination of all uses of technology and lessons learned in combat is the Leopard 2A7+.

The Leopard 2A7+ was unveiled by KMW in the summer of 2009 and was designed based on requirements of the German Army for a tank to conduct warfare in the non-traditional and lop-sided battlefield of urban areas.

The Leopard 2A7+ takes on a new sleeker look than the 2A5 or 2A6 with newly designed hull and turret armour, the various cameras and sensors, the rear turret mounted APU and A/C units and the very distinctive and ominous looking FLW 200 on the turret roof.

The German Army intends to upgrade a total of 150 Leopard 2s to the 2A7+ standard over the next several years. Portions of the technology utilized will undoubtedly also be attractive to other nations looking at upgrading their Leopard 2 fleets over the following years.

German model company Y-Modelle has now released a 1:35 conversion for the Leopard 2A7+. The conversion depicts the demonstrator version of the tank with all of the incorporated components. The Y-Modelle conversion is designed for use with the Hobby Boss Leopard 2A5DK #82405 kit.

The conversion comprises a total of 37 parts - 31 resin parts and 6 photo etched. The resin parts in my conversion are cast in a light tan. The overall quality of the parts is very high. The main hull and turret parts exhibit fine detail and are void of air bubbles.

There are nine pages of instruction provided in a booklet form written in German only. The instructions move through the assembly process for the addition of the conversion parts. Colour images of each step are provided with particular attention paid to how the Hobby Boss Leopard 2A5DK kit must be modified in order for the conversion parts to fit properly. There are six colour images of a completed and painted Leopard 2A7+ conversion in the booklet. The instructions are workable but it would have been nice to have had larger images to show the blending of the conversion parts with the Hobby Boss kit and both German and English text.

The conversion parts should combine fairly smoothly with the donor kit. The new design for the heavy armoured side skirts adds to the sleek look of this new Leopard. The turret uses the majority of the conversion parts with chunky modular armour and a significant turret rear extension with the APU and A/C units. The turret and hull cameras and sensors are crisply cast but do lack some details with respect to the actual optics of these devices. The culmination of the conversion is the addition of the FLW 200 Remote Weapon System. The conversion provides parts to mount either a 12.7 mm heavy machine gun or the GMK 40 mm grenade launcher and the associated ammunition. The FLW 200 without a doubt makes a huge visual impact on the Leopard 2A7+. The level of detail on the APU and A/C units as well as the GMK 40 mm and 12.7 mm HMG is some of the finest I have seen in resin. One thing missing from the conversion is that as a result of the FLW 200 being mounted on the turret the loader's hatch ring and hatch needs to be rotated nearly 180 degrees to permit the opening of the hatch toward the front of the turret instead of to the rear. This should be a relatively easy fix.

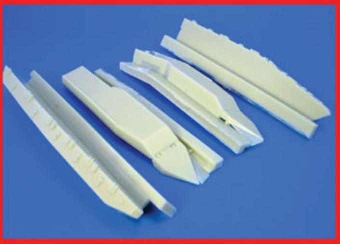
A simple RAL painting guide is provided for the unique camouflage scheme applied to the demonstrator version of the Leopard 2A7+. With any luck over the next few years we will see the Leopard 2A7+ in standard NATO three colour camouflage.

The Leopard 2A7+ conversion by Y-Modelle will deliver a very unique ultra-modern tank. Hopefully the Leopard 2A7+ will be seen in service over the following years and provide excellent reference material for modellers.

The conversion parts are very nicely cast and include lots of details that will enhance and transform the Hobby Boss Leopard 2A5DK kit. The price tag is 42.50 Euros making this unique conversion reasonably priced for all Leopard aficionados.

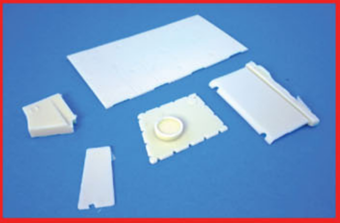
The conversion kit is available directly from Y-Modelle and other quality hobby shops. ■

Thanks to Y-Modelle for the sample www.shop.y-modelle.de

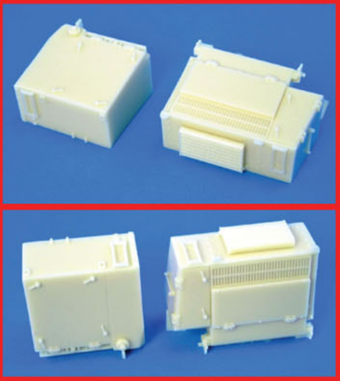


31 resin parts are included.

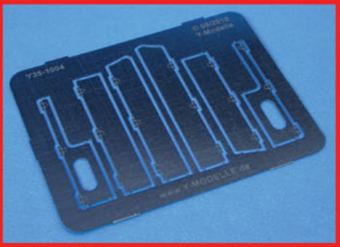
Smaller parts are equally well presented.



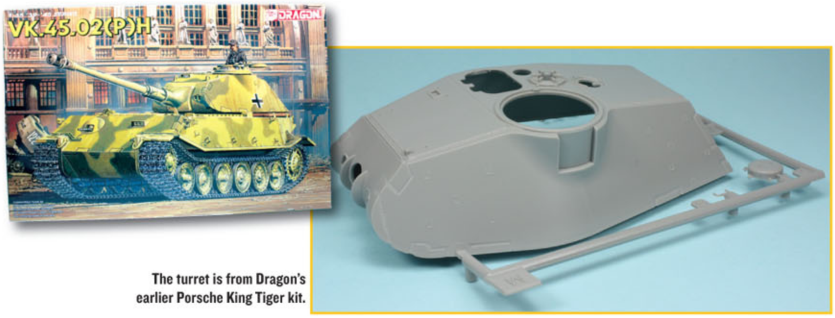
The turret uses the majority of the conversion parts with chunky modular armour and a significant turret rear extension with the APU and A/C units.



The level of detail on the APU and A/C units is very high.



Six photo-etched parts are included on the single photo-etched fret.



The turret is from Dragon's earlier Porsche King Tiger kit.

THOSE PROLIFIC PAPER PANZERS

Andy King examines Dragon's take on the VK.45.02(P)H Tiger proposal in 1:35 scale

The VK.45.02(P)H was proposed as a replacement for the Tiger I tank. Ferdinand Porsche had come up with a series of drawings for the new vehicle but ultimately none were chosen, the contract being awarded to Henschel and their design which eventually became the King Tiger.

The Porsche design was based on the original prototype VK45.01 Tiger I chassis but with a new upper hull, centrally located engine and a turret mounted at the rear, other designs had it in the middle and engine to the rear. Production was due to start in April 1942 with an initial order for two hundred vehicles. Fifty turrets were actually built for the new tank, but when it became apparent the project was stalling due to failures of the engine during trials these turrets were used on the first batch of King Tigers instead.

This kit is Dragon's contribution to the current 'What-if' or 'Paper Panzer' field and comprises just over 300 parts (which is low by Dragon's standard).

In the box you will find a sheet of photo-etched metal, an aluminium gun barrel, metal cable, a small decal sheet and a newly tooled hull. The rest of the parts however come from earlier Dragon kits; the turret is from their King Tiger, the running gear and DS vinyl tracks from the Ferdinand/ Elefant. Many of the parts are marked not for use and sprue TL is not even included on the instruction sheet so there are lots of bits for the spares box.

There is no interior detail unlike the recent Hobbyboss kit of the VK45.02, which had a fully detailed turret, however there are some parts for the breech but as these are shaded out on the instructions there is no assembly guide.

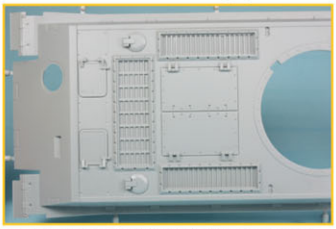
The photo-etched fret has parts for the engine grills, tool clamps and hangers for the tow cables. Quite amusingly considering the subject you have a choice of Commander's cupola; one with rain channels and one without.

Paint schemes are limited to just two vehicles, one in overall dark yellow and the other with green camouflage but bearing in mind that this is a hypothetical vehicle, you could go wild.

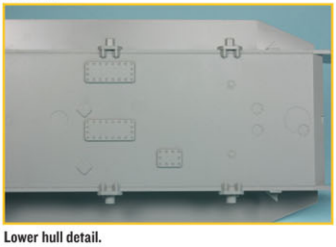
For fans of WWII prototype German armour this is a nice kit and with a comparatively low part count should also make for a fairly stress free AMS (Advanced Modeller Syndrome) busting build, especially with the one piece DS vinyl tracks. ■

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

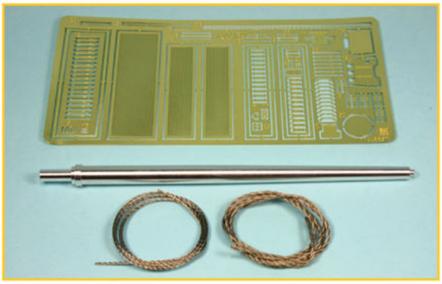
The barrel is also sourced from the King Tiger.



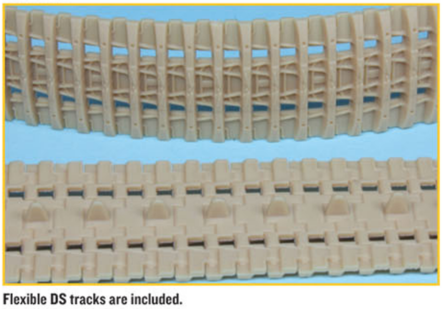
The hull is an all-new affair and features nice moulded on detail.



Lower hull detail.



Multi-media parts include a large photo-etched fret, metal barrel and metal tow cables.



Flexible DS tracks are included.

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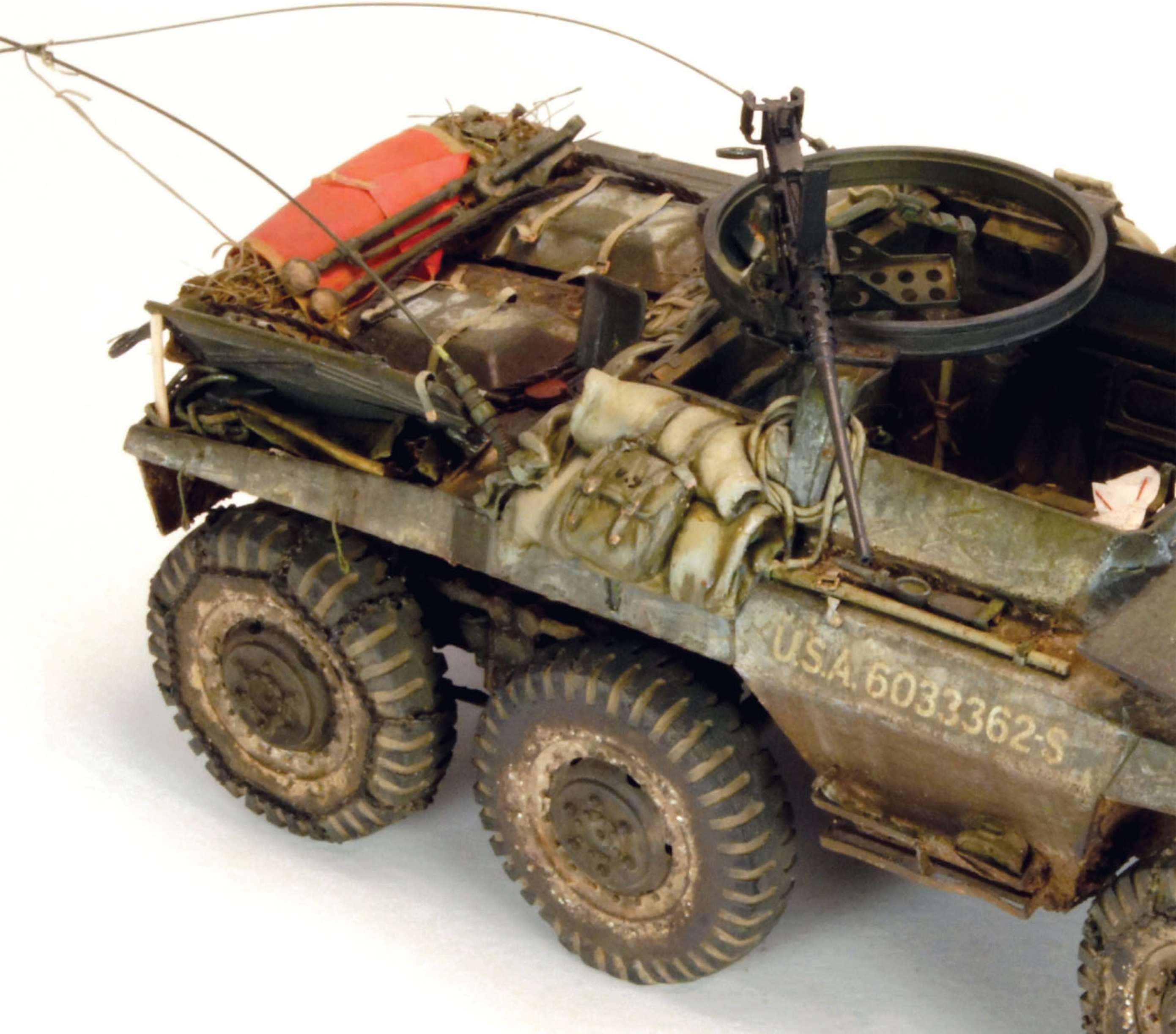
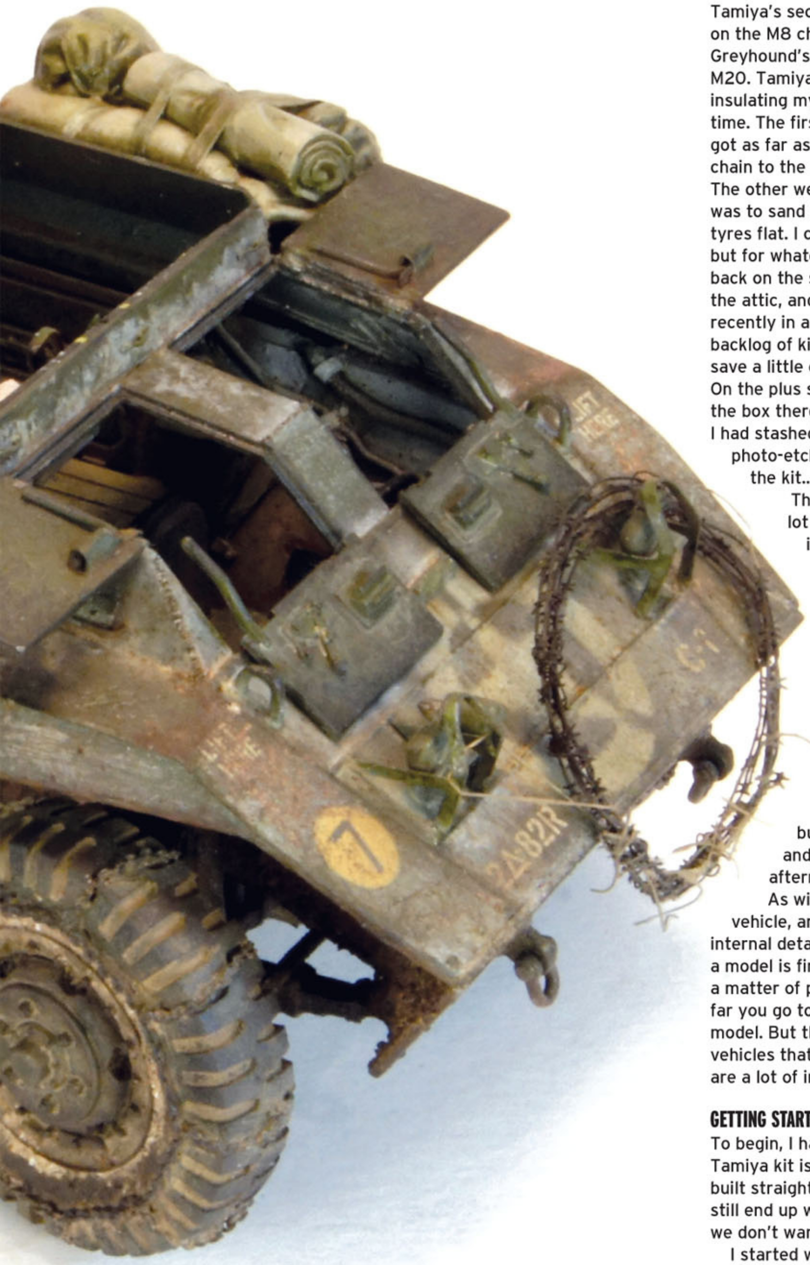


TOPLESS TWENTY

Kev Smith clutters up Tamiya's classic 1:35 scale M20 Utility Car with stowage inside and out, and finishes his model in a heavily distressed coat of whitewash.



In these days of super detailed kits, combined with the reality of not having as much spare cash as we would like, it is worth taking a second look at some of the older and less expensive kits.

Tamiya's 1:35 scale M20 is one of those models. First released around twelve years ago, this was Tamiya's second model based on the M8 chassis. This is the Greyhound's sister vehicle, the M20. Tamiya's beauty has been insulating my loft for quite some time. The first time around I only got as far as attaching the drive chain to the underside of the hull. The other weird thing I had done was to sand the bottoms of the tyres flat. I can't remember why but for whatever reason I put it back on the shelf, or in this case the attic, and there it stayed, until recently in an attempt to clear the backlog of kits and in an effort to save a little cash I revisit the M20. On the plus side when I opened the box there was a nice surprise. I had stashed away an Eduard photo-etch set. Anyway, back to the kit...

The M20 shows off a lot more in the way of interior than the M8 Greyhound thanks to its open top. The M20 is also a great subject to clutter up externally. With such a straightforward build, your precious modelling time can be spent on working on all those little details such as scratch building stowage and if you wish adding aftermarket products.

As with any open topped vehicle, an awful amount of internal detail can be hidden when a model is finished so it really is a matter of personal taste how far you go to detail any open top model. But the M20 is one of those vehicles that once finished there are a lot of internal areas on show.

GETTING STARTED

To begin, I have to say that this Tamiya kit is superb. It could be built straight from the box and you still end up with a great model. But we don't want to do that do we?

I started with the drive train and suspension (about twelve years ago actually!) This was built following the excellent Tamiya instruction, except that is for the front axle. Here I turned the front wheels for some animation and interest. This did require a little surgery using, not surprisingly, a sharp blade to remove and then reattach the two stubs that the wheels are mounted onto at the desired angle. The steering bar (B46) will need some altering also. Whilst I was at it, another nice touch was to drill the end of the exhaust pipe out. The wheels are a mix of the kit items and resin (with snow chains) and were left off and painted separately and attached at the end.

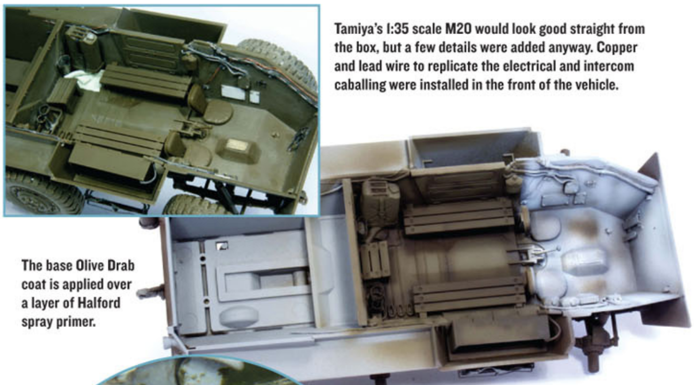
Work began with the interior and the first item on the agenda was the wiring. For this I used copper and lead wire to replicate the electrical and intercom cabling in the front of the vehicle. The reference picture I used was of a M8 Greyhound but I reasoned that the layout would be similar if not the same. Eduard provides an excellent instrument panel with the dials being replicated beautifully on a small sheet; this is a small detail but really does make a difference to the finished model. Moving into the rear crew compartment and this was built as per the instructions. The only additions were the fire extinguisher holder provided on the etch set from Eduard, and some cabling to the radio. That was the inside of the lower hull pretty much finished and was left to one side until painting.

BITS N PIECES

I began with a little surgery to the rear stowage bin. First a blade was run down the underside of the hinge so I could gently coax the lid open. All that remained to do then was to cut some plastic card down to size to complete the inner walls of the bin. With the bin now complete, all that was left was the lid. The missing lip that runs along the underside edge of the lid and two strengthening supports were also added at this time from plastic card. On the outside, I used the latches from the Eduard photo-etched set. To compliment these two small holes were drilled into the side of the hull, and then both ends of a thin strand of copper wire was threaded through the holes until a small loop was formed. This was then snipped off and fixed into place with super glue.

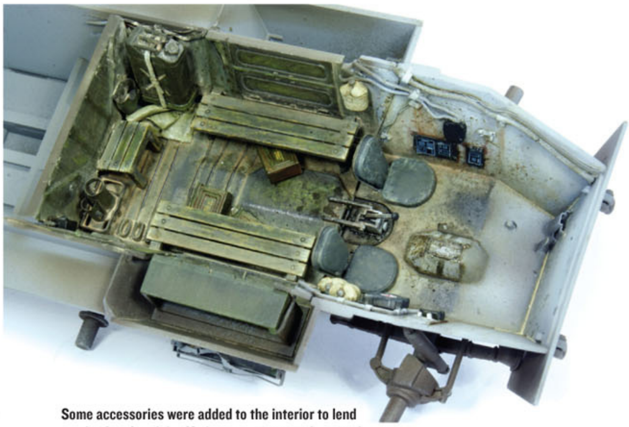
The .50 cal machine-gun provided was looking tired, so I delved into my spares box and replaced it with one from Dragon. This was further enhanced with Eduard photo-etched parts, and chains from Aber. Other improvements included the front hatches. These had new handles and levers added. I heated the antenna bases over a candle flame to get them to the correct angle as in wartime photos.

That was the construction nearly complete all that was left to do was replace the headlight brush ▶



Tamiya's 1:35 scale M20 would look good straight from the box, but a few details were added anyway. Copper and lead wire to replicate the electrical and intercom caballing were installed in the front of the vehicle.

The base Olive Drab coat is applied over a layer of Halford spray primer.



Some accessories were added to the interior to lend an air of authenticity. Various greens were then used to pick out details on the interior.

The two prominent crew benches were painted with various shades of greens then eventually finished off with Vallejo Wood on the edges to replicate bare wood.

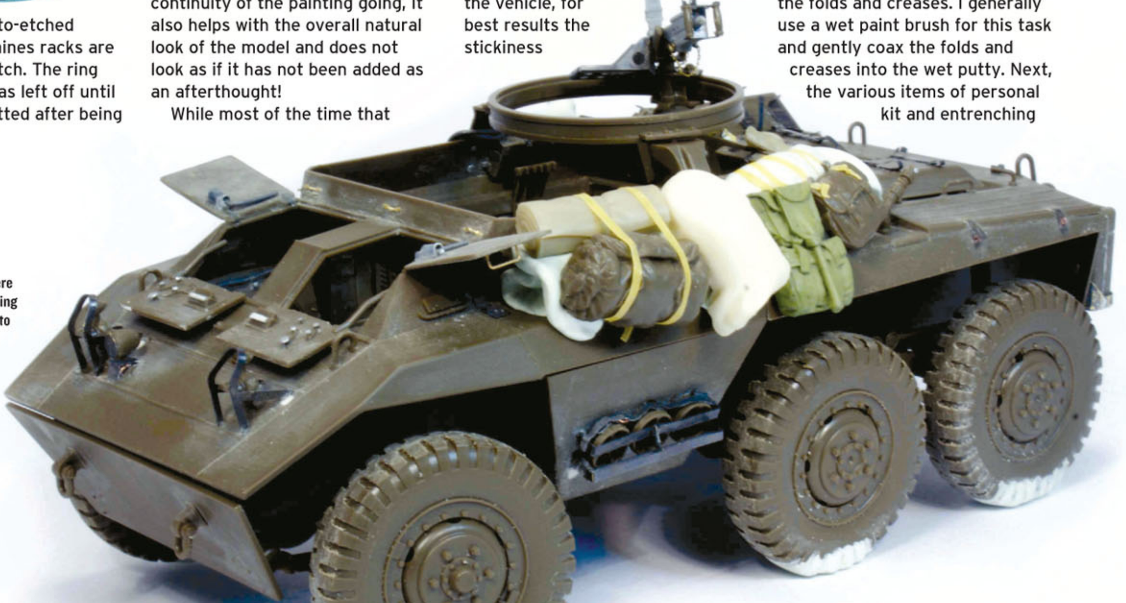
◀ guards with the photo-etched Eduard items. The mines racks are also replaced with etch. The ring mount for the .50 was left off until last, and would be fitted after being painted separately.

STOWAGE ANYONE?

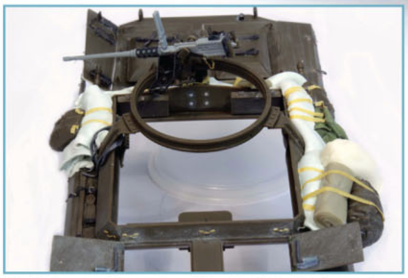
I wanted to replicate wartime photos that show M20s/M8s covered in heaps of stowage from bedrolls, tarpaulins, and jerry cans. Stowage helps to breathe life and character into a model. I usually try and paint my models with the stowage in place. I find that doing it in this way keeps the continuity of the painting going, It also helps with the overall natural look of the model and does not look as if it has not been added as an afterthought!

While most of the time that was spent on the M8 was on the interior, nearly an equal amount of time was spent on scratch building the external stowage from epoxy putty. My material of choice was Magic Sculpt. This is a two-part putty, which is kneaded together in equal parts until thoroughly mixed. As I wanted to mould the putty straight onto the sides of the vehicle, for best results the stickiness needs to be out of the putty. To achieve this, a little talcum powder was added to the mix. The surface (thick glass) I was intending to use to roll the putty on was also given a dusting of talc.

The putty was formed into long sausages then cut down into smaller manageable segments, and then gently pressed onto the vehicle. The next step was to form the folds and creases. I generally use a wet paint brush for this task and gently coax the folds and creases into the wet putty. Next, the various items of personal kit and entrenching



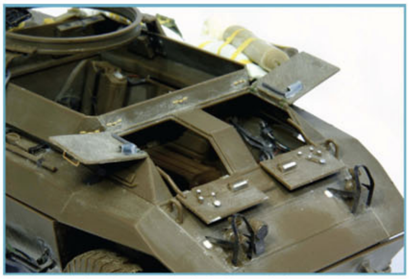
Folds and creases were added by gently coaxing with a damp brush into the wet putty.

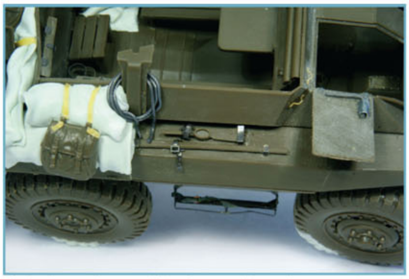


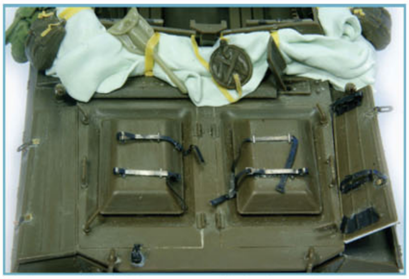
The big stowage rolls were formed from Magic Sculpt, a two-part epoxy putty ideal for this job.

The rolls and tarps were pressed straight onto the upper hull.

To finish off, Tamiya tape was used to replicate the web straps that attach the various items of kit to the vehicle.


Interior of the hatches were detailed with small pieces of plastic.


Various items of personal kit and entrenching tools were gently pressed into the tacky putty to get a good natural fit.


Tie-downs and lead foil straps were added to the rear deck.

tools were gently pressed into the tacky putty to get a good natural fit. To finish off, Tamiya tape was used to replicate the web straps that attach the various items of kit to the vehicle. The cam netting on the rear deck of the M20 is fabricated from medical bandage soaked in PVA/water.

From a modelling point of view, Allied vehicles don't make for very interesting finished models. When compared to the German three tone schemes, an Olive Drab finish can be a little boring. One weapon in the arsenal is to add air ID panels. This is an easy and effective way to add colour to Allied vehicles. These are simple to replicate. In this case I used lead sheet but aluminium foil or a strip of epoxy putty can also be used to good effect. As for the colour of the panels, the Allies mainly used a combination of yellow or red throughout the war in Europe.

BREAK OUT THE OD

For me the painting and weathering stages are by far the most enjoyable stages of modelling. This is the time that the mass of plastic and etch metal that you have been toiling over on the work bench for the past couple of weeks starts to take on some life of its own. After the undercoated of Halford's Primer had hardened I started with the inside of the vehicle. First, the entire interior received a coat of Vallejo German Camouflage Brown, followed by Tamiya X-2 White to the driver's area using the first coat as a pre-shade. Various greens were then used to pick out details on the interior. The two prominent crew benches were next. Benches being benches would have had lots of wear, so I spent some time trying to replicate this. The same method was used as the interior using shades of greens to build up layers of worn paint eventually finished off with Vallejo Wood on the edges to replicate bare wood. Graphite was then dry brushed on to the raised details on the floor where wear and tear would be most apparent. The floor was then finished off with oil stains and a dusting of pigments into the corners. Some ammo boxes were scattered around to give the vehicle that lived in look. Latter brass cases from the spares box would be scattered around the inside to add to the overall finish.

Moving onto the exterior of the M20 and the first step was to spray light layers of Tamiya XF-61 Dark Green. This was thinned with lacquer - roughly 2:1 thinner to paint. Next, this was followed with XF-62 Olive Drab for the base coat. I added some XF-21 Sky to lighten the mix for the highlights. I didn't dwell too long on this stage as I was going to apply a faded whitewash camouflage coat over the top of this. The next step was ▶

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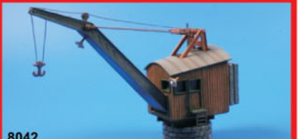
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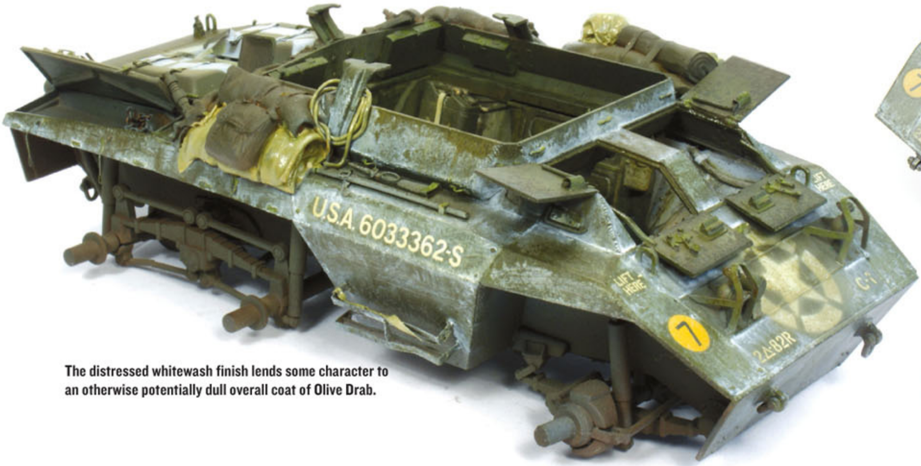
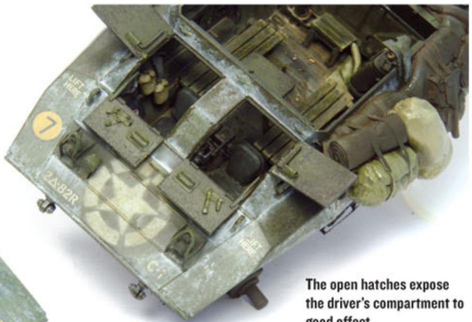


The distressed whitewash finish lends some character to an otherwise potentially dull overall coat of Olive Drab.



The open hatches expose the driver's compartment to good effect.

The hairspray technique was used to remove most of the light coloured whitewash from the Olive Drab base coat.

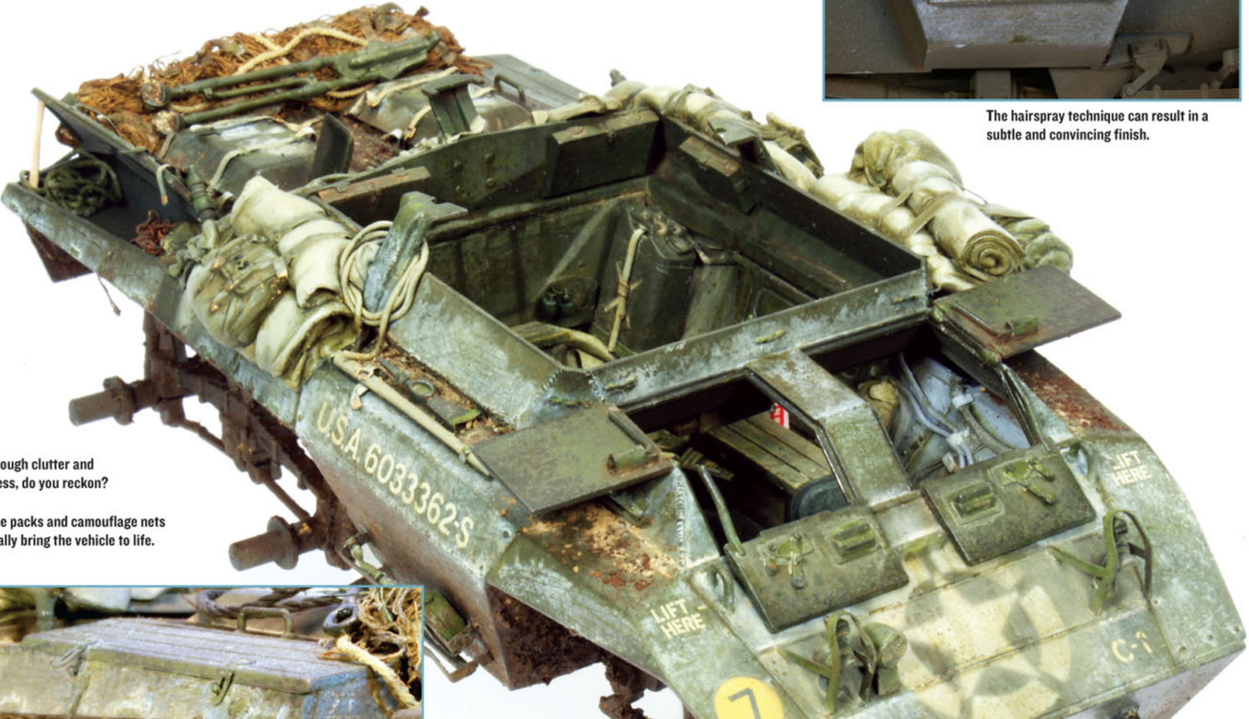
The hairspray technique can result in a subtle and convincing finish.

to replicate the large white stars. I used my airbrush to spray Vallejo White acrylic through a etch template. Stars are on the decal sheet but I like to spray on my own markings when I can, as this adds to the realism.

A coat of clear varnish was next sprayed over the model. This prepared the surface of the model for the decals and protects the paintwork for the work to come. Once the decals were on the model was left to one side to let the varnish go off. Small chips were applied to the vehicle next. For this I used a small piece of sponge dipped into a mix of dark brown/green. The excess was removed on kitchen towel then dabbed onto logical areas of the vehicle. Now the M20 was starting to look the part. I then sealed the chips with another thin layer of varnish.

WHITEWASH

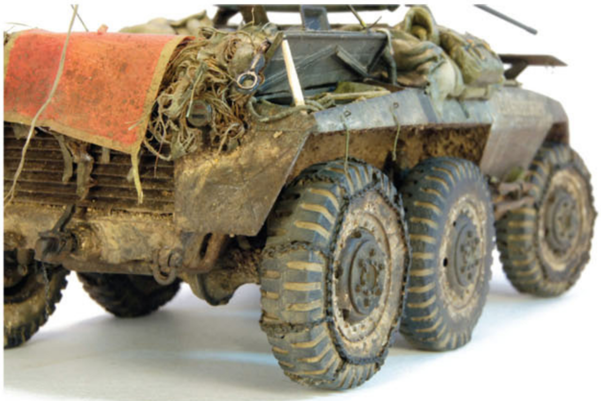
I wanted to depict an M20 that has been through a winter on the front line with what was left of the winter's camouflage paint. I have wanted to try the hairspray technique for some time so I thought that I would give it a try. To start, Tamiya White XF-2 was thinned with tap water (50/50) and sprayed over the model in a couple of thin coats. Then I proceeded to chip and generally distress the white camouflage



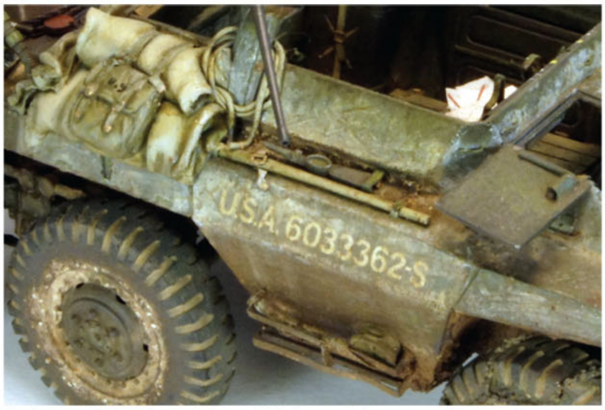
Enough clutter and mess, do you reckon?

The packs and camouflage nets really bring the vehicle to life.

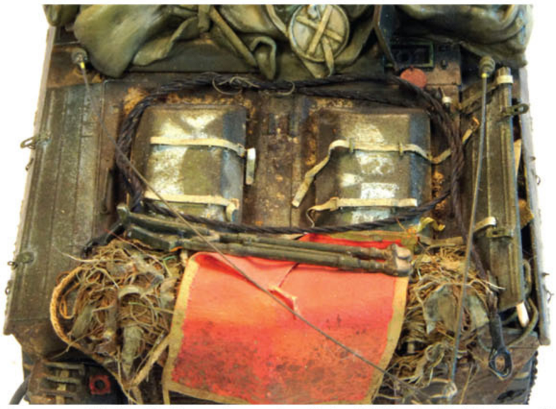
The areas inside the wheel arches were treated to especially muddy weathering using Mig Pigments.



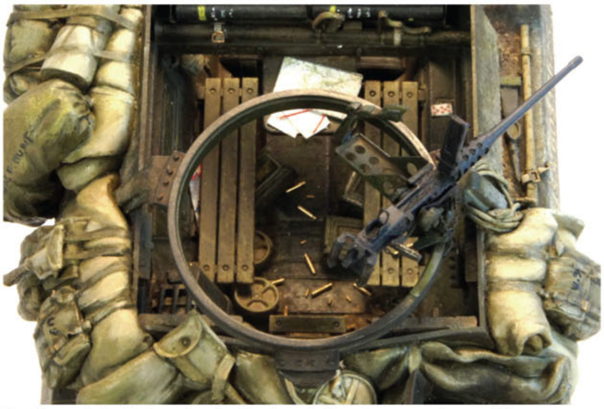
Tank Workshop's resin wheels with snow chains were used here.



Decals were applied over a coat of clear varnish before weathering commenced.

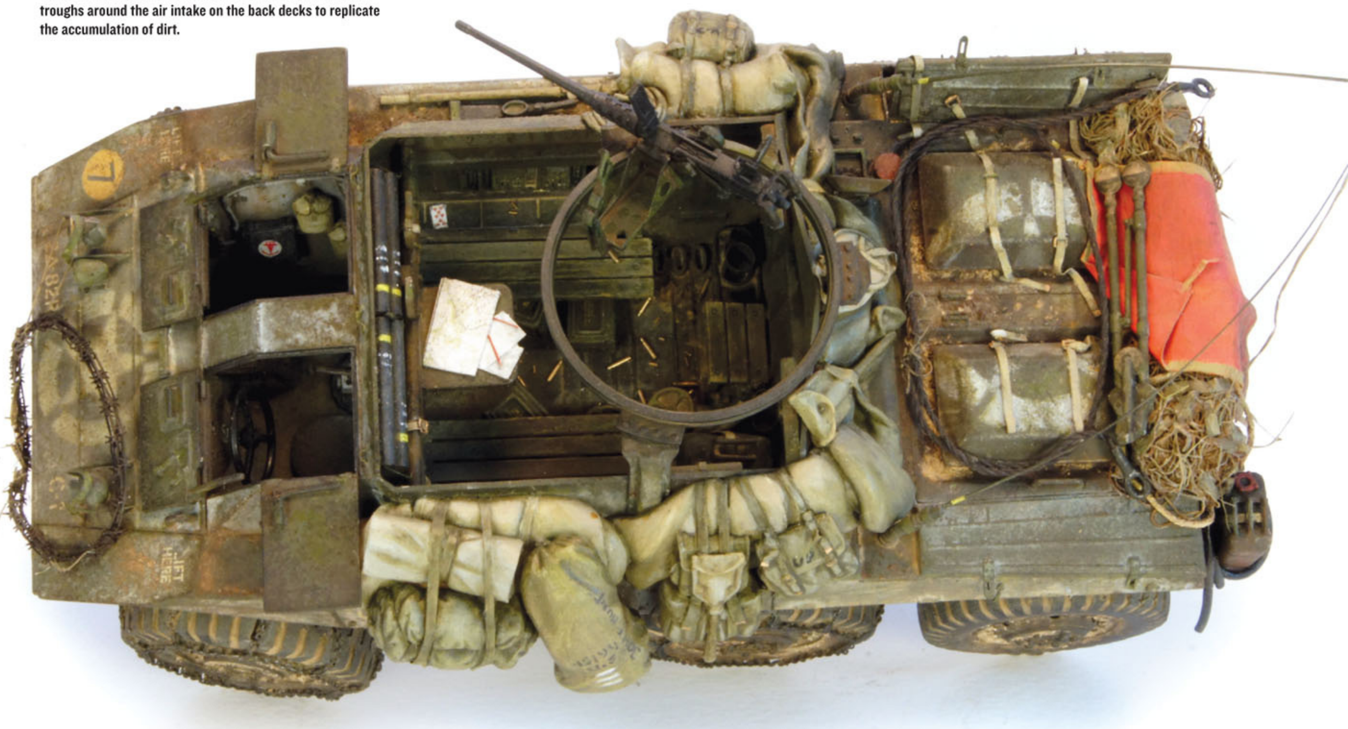


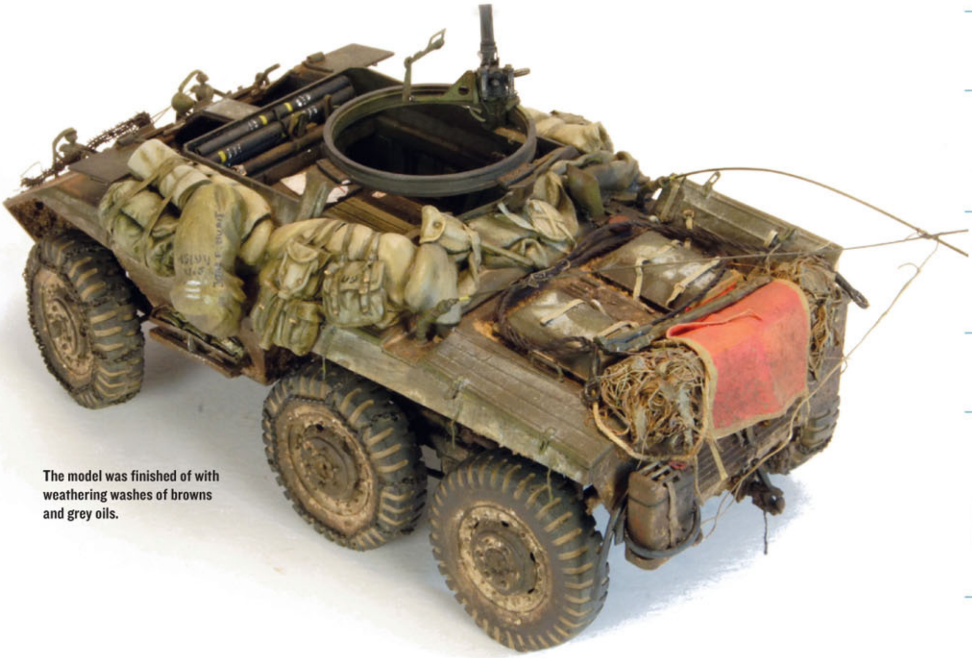
The fluorescent red air identification panel was cut from thin lead foil. Note the fabric border carefully painted around the edge.



Graphite was dry brushed on to the raised details on the floor where wear and tear would be most apparent. The floor was then finished off with oil stains and a dusting of pigments into the corners.

Various MIG Pigments were mixed and built up around the troughs around the air intake on the back decks to replicate the accumulation of dirt.





The model was finished of with weathering washes of browns and grey oils.

paint with water and a couple of old short bristled brushes. After about an hour I had a distressed camouflage coat that I was happy with, but the model looked stark to say the least. I applied a thin filter of brown to town down the white a little. This was followed with some more scratches to the hull sides using the reverse side of a modelling blade. Finally, some of the worn edges of the whitewash were picked out with white to add some depth to the whitewash areas. To finish off the model I weathered the surface with washes of browns and grey oils. When this was dry, various MIG Pigments were mixed and built up around the troughs around the air intake on the back decks to replicate the build up of dirt. The same went for the lower hull and wheel arches.

I am just waiting for MiniArt's U.S tank to appear then I can get on with a small diorama.

GETTING TYRED

The tyres were painted with a coat of Humbrol Matt 66 Olive Drab. When dry, a wash of Humbrol Matt 110 Natural Wood followed. The hubs were weathered in the same manner as the lower hull. The chains were picked out with a sharp pencil after the weathering stage. I dry brushed the tyre surface with dark grey to pick out the tread but this might have to be altered once it is installed in the diorama!

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 Armoured Utility Car U.S. M20 Kit No 35234

Tools and Materials Used

Iwata HP-CH Airbrush, Magi Sculpt, Thin wire, Future floor varnish

Accessories Used

Eduard etch set (35-257)
.50 (12.7) Cases, ADLERS NEST ANM (35016)
TANK WORKSHOP U.S. M8 Greyhound Wheels/chains (TWS 0087)
Mission Models .50 cal Ammo Boxes

Paints Used

Tamiya acrylics: XF-57 Buff; XF-21 Sky; XF- 61 Dark Green; XF- 58 Olive Green; XF-62 Olive Drabb; XF- 51 Khaki Drabb; XF-2 White.
Vallejo: German camouflage Black Brown 822.

Weathering Products

Cheap Aerosol Hairspray.
Mig Pigments: P028 Euro Earth; P029 Brick Dust.

Reference

WORLD WAR II ALLIED VEHICLES by JAN SUERMONDT
Internet

✓ Clear instructions, good clean fit of parts.

✗ The figures are looking a little old; some of the finer details are a little heavy but apart from that very little.

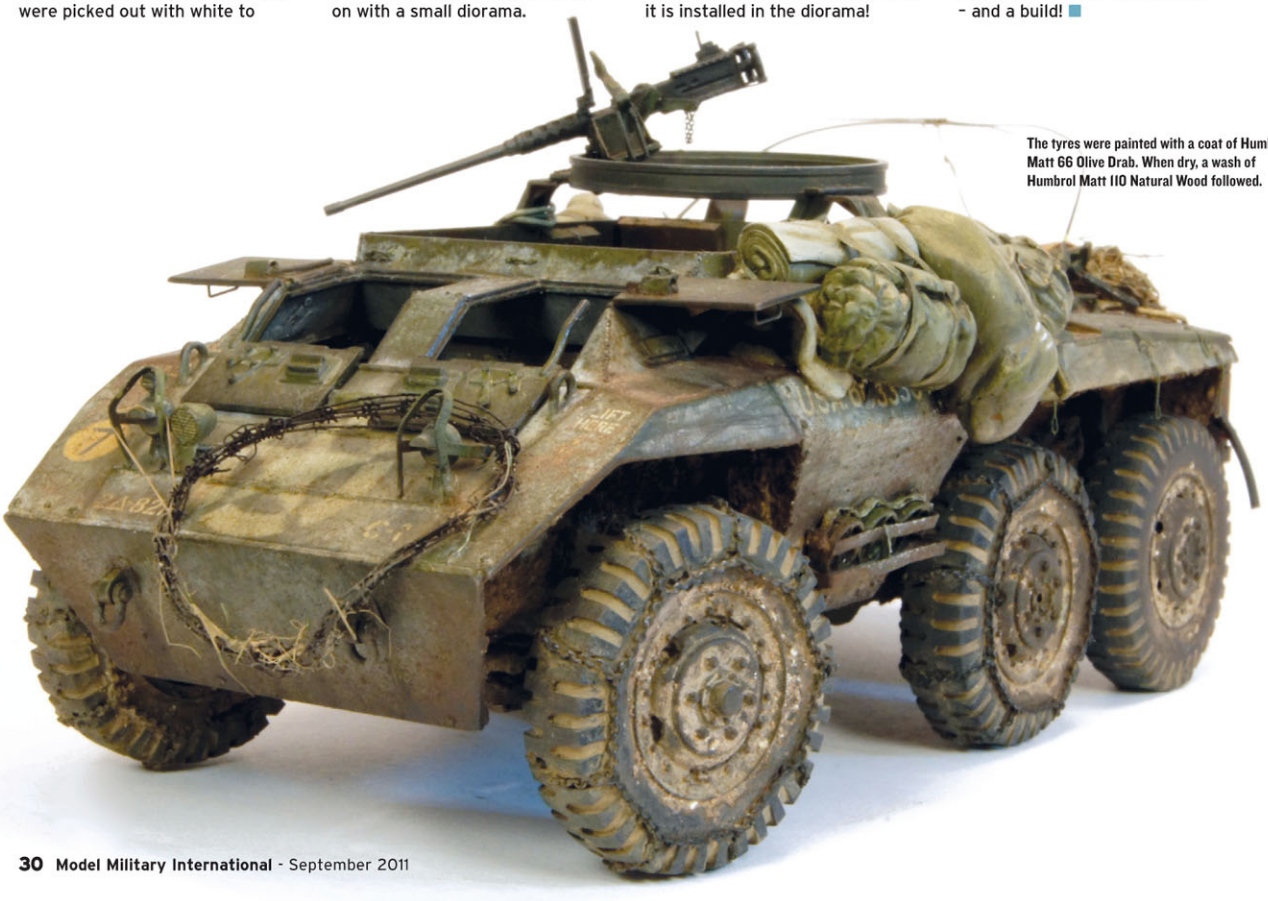
Available from

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

CONCLUSION

Tamiya's 1:35 scale M20 Armoured Utility Car proved to be an enjoyable project. Modellers on a budget can easily build their model without the aftermarket products mentioned in this article. I, for one, love these slightly earlier Tamiya kits. They are well worth a look – and a build!



The tyres were painted with a coat of Humbrol Matt 66 Olive Drab. When dry, a wash of Humbrol Matt 110 Natural Wood followed.

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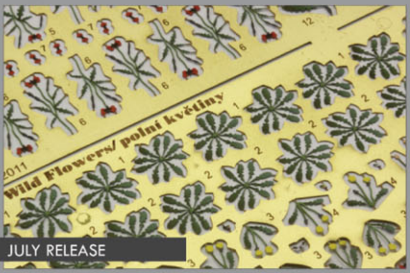

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- **Model Factory Hiro's 1:24 Aston Martin DBR9, unwashed!**
- **Dragon's recent StuGIII ausf.G 'Feldherrnhalle' 1945**
- **Tamiya's third 1:32 Spitfire, the Mk.XVIe - in postwar silver**
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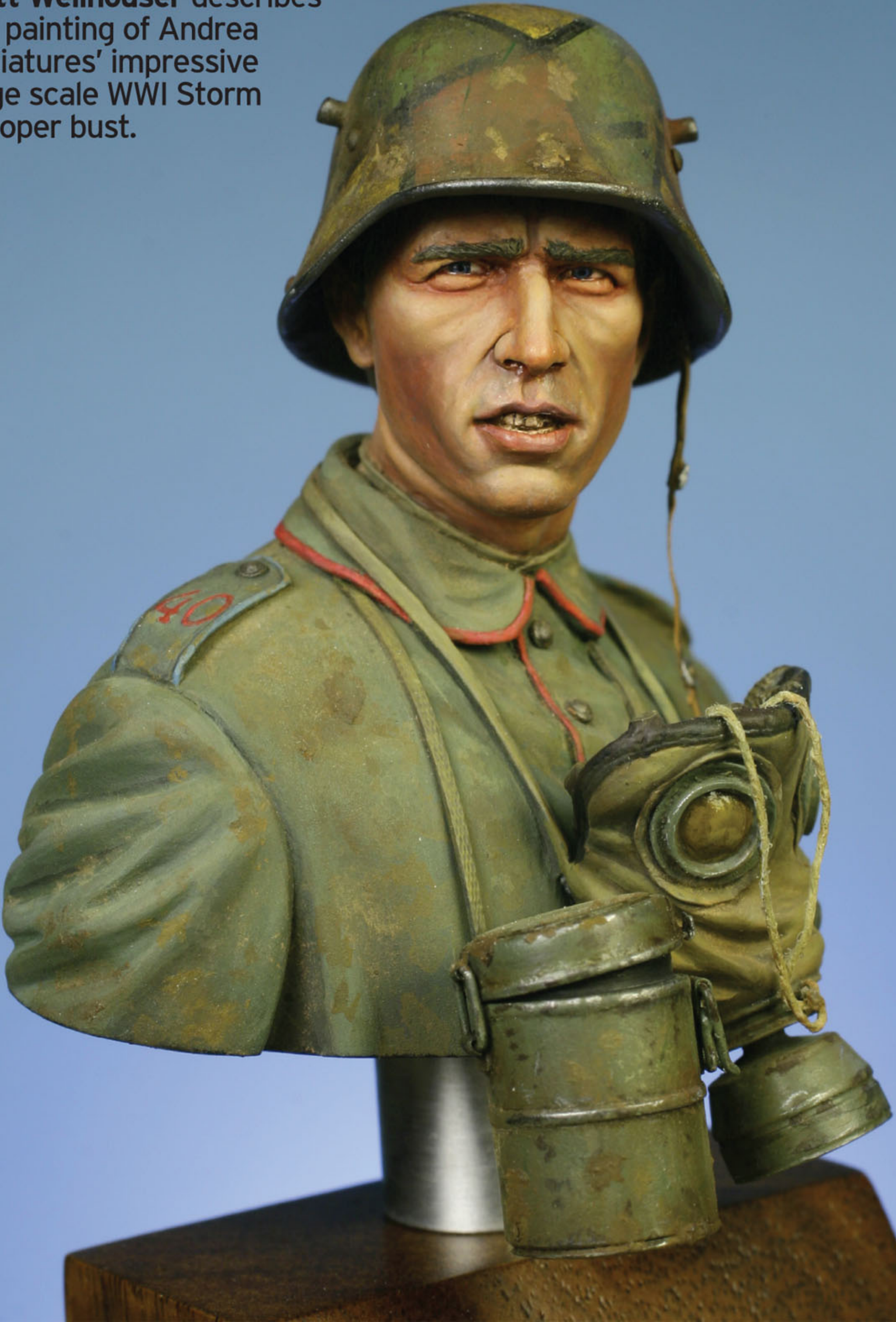
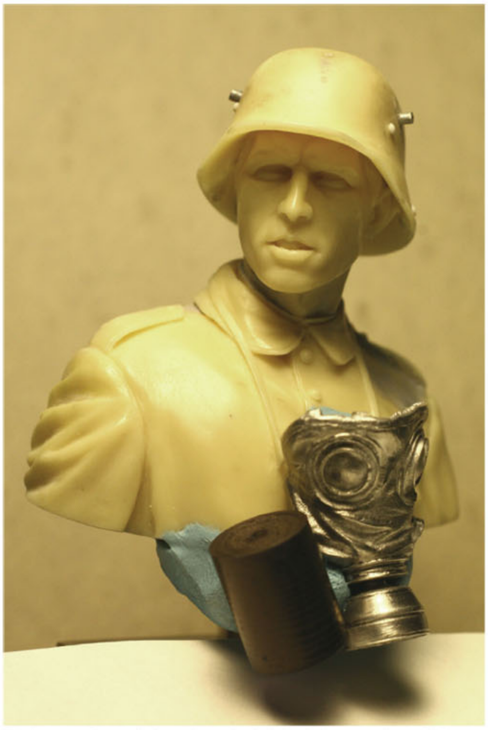
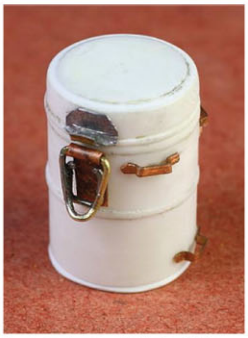
THE ABODE OF MADNESS

Matt Wellhouser describes the painting of Andrea Miniatures' impressive large scale WWI Storm Trooper bust.

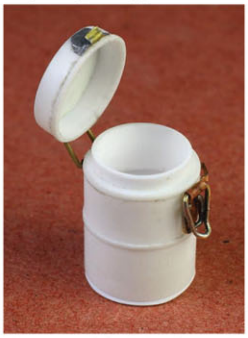




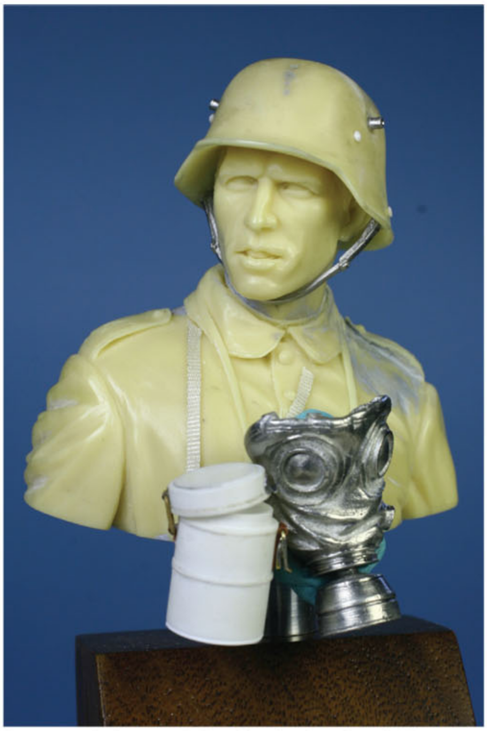
The figure was first tacked together to check the fit of the gas mask can. This is a mock-up piece used to check position before final assembly.



Evergreen styrene rod, sheet and tube was combined to make the basic can, using the original to copy the details.



The top was made by slicing a short section of the tube and adding a sheet plastic top. The hinges were made from lead foil.



The carry strap for the can was fashioned from Kneadatite "Green Stuff".

"No Man's Land – The Abode of Madness". That quote pretty much sums up trench warfare in the First World War. It was brutal - cold, hot, wet, dirty and everything in between.

Andrea's 1:10 scale WWI Storm Trooper bust has been on the market for a while. It is moulded in white metal and resin. I have only done three other WWI figures, all in smaller scales, but I was contacted by a collector who wanted me to paint this kit. The process took a few months to complete, partly because I have other projects, and partly because I work very slowly. The collector had a bunch of great ideas on how to display and finish this piece. We worked together and the modifications he suggested worked beautifully.

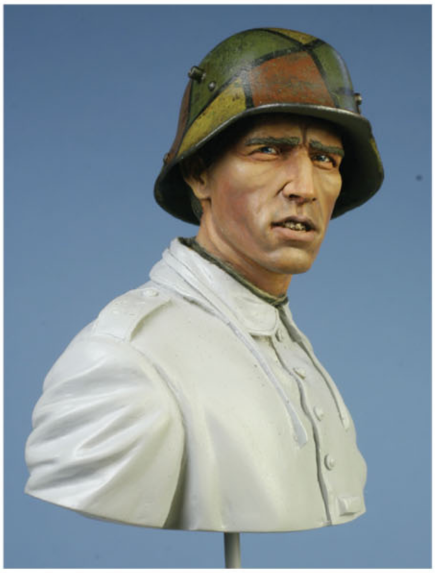
Andrea's bust comprises just five parts. The bust itself is one piece, with smaller helmet detail parts and the gas mask in metal. As this piece was a commission piece, the collector wanted to display the bust with the gas mask carrier (can) slung across the front of the bust. We also decided to leave the helmet strap unfastened.

Work commenced with cleanup of the figure. I found that the detail on the helmet was a little soft. The liner rivets on the outside were not clearly defined, so I made new ones out of plastic rod. I also rebuilt the lower edge of the helmet- it is a rounded bead edge. This was done by using a hobby knife, sandpaper and files.

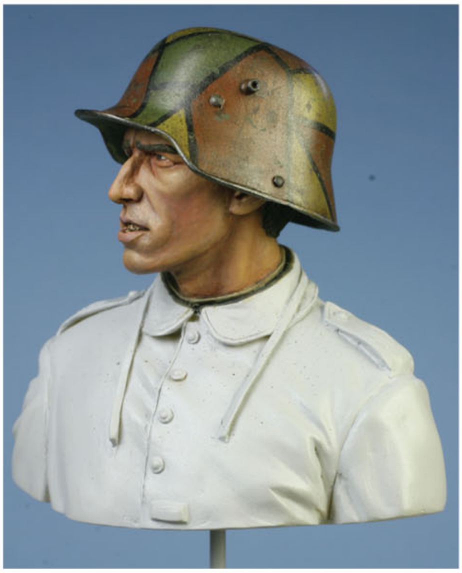
The gas mask was temporarily fitted with a mock-up of the gas mask can. I used measurements from an original example to size and cut a rough blank with acrylic rod. I used Blu Tack to hold the sample can in position. I coloured the temporary can with a magic marker so that it could be seen clearly. This allowed me to see how the position would fit with the mask and experiment with different locations. Once we (the collector and myself) were satisfied with the layout and position, I went to work on the final product.

ADDING DETAIL

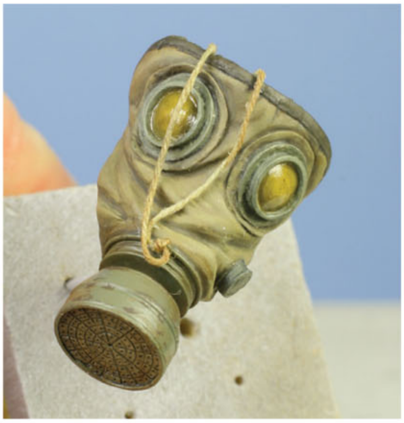
I used Evergreen styrene rod, sheet and tube to make the basic can. Using the original to copy the details, I added the ribs at the centre and bottom of the can. Then I made the top by slicing a short section of the tube and adding a sheet plastic top. The hinges were made from lead foil. The latch was made from brass wire. I painted the can with Gunze German Field Grey paint. Scuffs and scratches were replicated with Vallejo SS Camouflage Black Brown. A final touch was rubbing some ground up pencil lead on the edges of the can, and filters of the base colour lightened with yellow ▶



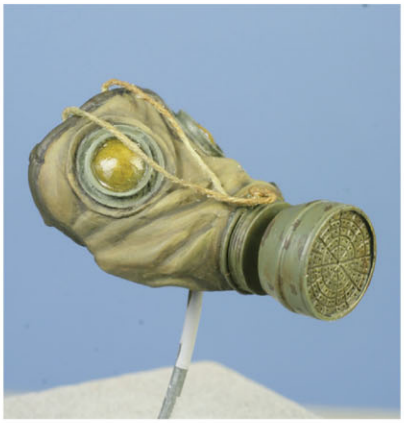
Since the head is attached to the bust, painting started with the face.



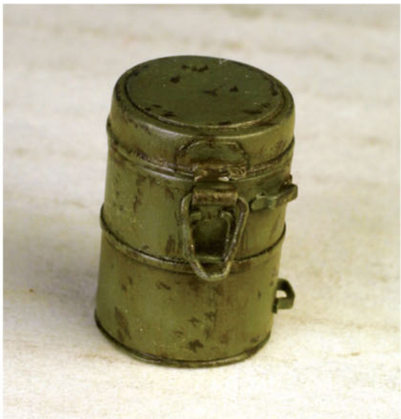
Vallejo Model Color acrylics were used for most of the colours.



The gasmask was base coated with English Uniform and German Camo Medium Brown. Highlights were added with Sunny Skin Tone.



Shading was done with Black and Burnt Umber colours. The lenses were base coated with a mix of Green Brown and Sand Yellow, with a little more Sand Yellow added for highlights.



The straps for the gasmask and can were painted using a mix of Khaki and Olive Green. They were highlighted with straight Khaki.

ochre oil paint.

The carry strap for the can was fashioned from Kneadatite "Green Stuff". I rolled it out with a scrap piece of brass tubing. I added texture to the strap by rolling the knurled part of a Xacto knife over the semi-hardened putty. Green Stuff is more rubbery than standard A&B putty. This allowed me to position the strap and can in place without the strap breaking off. Later, when the can was positioned after the bust was painted, I drilled a hole in the figure and a corresponding hole in the can so I could use a short section of brass wire to hold it in place.

PAINTING

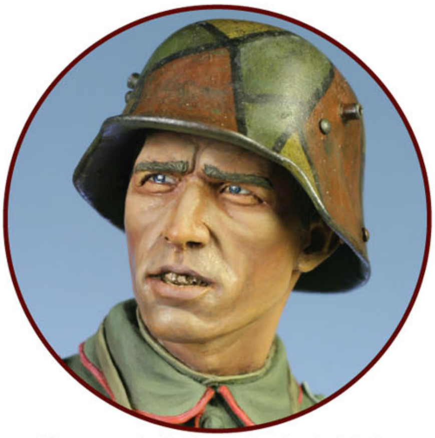
Now that I had the can completed, I could commence painting the bust - sounds kinda twisted huh? First, the bust was primed. I like to use Tamiya primer in the spray can - great stuff. Since the head is attached to the bust, I started with the face. I wanted a weary look, but also a look that shows the soldier was in the elements.

Unless noted, all of the colours are Vallejo Model Colour. First things first, I painted the eyes. I start with an off-white colour for the basic eyeball - usually Basic Skin Tone with Off White added. Not too much white though or he will look pop-eyed. Then I add the cornea-coloured part of the eye. I start with black, and then add blue in a medium tone. The edge of the cornea has a darker edge. Working towards the centre I add lighter colour then black for the pupil. Keep the paint thin so that it is easy to work with. I edge the eye with a bit of Cadmium Red and Old Rose to simulate the fleshy part of the eye. When I am done, I coat the eyes with Future floor polish. On this figure I added a very small amount of diluted flat red flowed into the eye as a wash to give him a bloodshot effect. One great way to teach yourself to paint eyes is to study drawings of eyes. There are artist books on the subject and hundreds of drawings on the Internet. Pick a few and study the placement of the cornea, the size and shape.

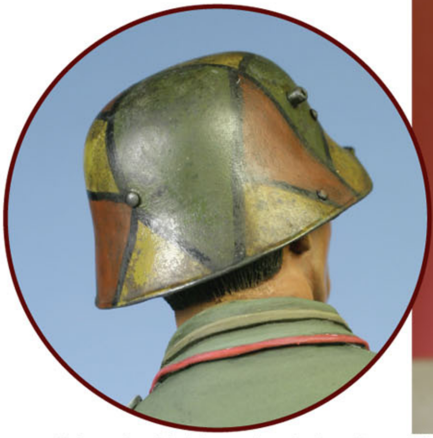
My basic mix is all Vallejo paints - Brown Sand Base, Basic Skin Tone, and Burnt Cadmium Red. The face is base coated with Brown Sand. Highlights are added next. I add small amounts of Basic Skintone to the base and bring up the highlights. Each coat is thin - 80% water and I add more water as I get a lighter shade. Before I hit my final highlight, I start on the shadows. I add Burnt Cadmium Red to the base colour and work on the shadows. Working with acrylics means you constantly go back and forth and add mid tones, highlights, shadows, to cover the transitions. Because acrylics do not blend like oil colours, you have to create a transition area between shadows, highlights and base colours with a light mid tone that disguises any "line" between the shades. I add black to the Burnt Cadmium Red to create the deepest shadows. These are usually under the chin, under the brow and under the nose. A lighter shadow with black mixed in – heavily diluted simulates the five o'clock shadow. The hair and eyebrows were a mix of English Uniform and Black. I did "streak" the hair in a few spots with German Camouflage Black Brown mixed with English Uniform. Most of it can't be seen because the helmet covers most of the hair. The lips are a combination of Burnt Cadmium Red with Basic Skin tone mixed together- not too bright, or it looks like lipstick.

I constantly go back and check for areas that need improvement or touch up. Because the story was that the soldier was facing a gas attack, he had his gas mask out, and at the ready. Maybe he suffered a short exposure. I decided to add more Burnt Cadmium Red to the areas under the eyes to give him a wearier bloodshot appearance.

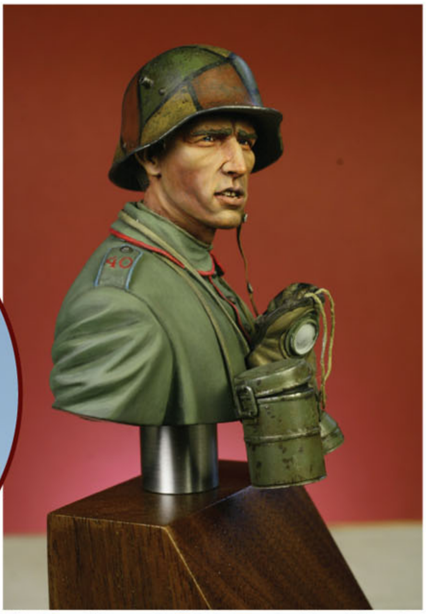
Moving on to the helmet, I painted the base colour a medium green tone. I used a variety of colour here - Russian Green, Olive



The eyes were painted with an off-white colour for the basic eyeball - usually Basic Skin Tone with Off White added.



The base colour of the helmet was first painted a medium green tone before a variety of colours were added - Russian Green, Olive Green and Olive Grey.



A bit of Sunny Skin tone to highlight the base colour. The reddish area is a mix of Leather Brown and Red Leather. The yellow is German Yellow, Green Brown and Yellow Ochre.

Green and Olive Grey. I added a bit of Sunny Skin tone to highlight the base colour. The reddish area is a mix of Leather Brown and Red Leather. The yellow is German Yellow, Green Brown and Yellow Ochre. These were applied using pictures of WWI helmets as reference to get an idea on the geometric design. The border of the colours is Flat Black. Once dry the helmet was given a wash of Burnt Umber and black oil paints. Most of this was wiped off. Then German Camo Black Brown was used to simulate scratches and scuffs on the helmet. I concentrated on areas that would receive a lot of wear. Finally, the edges of the helmet were given some scuffs with a silver artist's pencil, Citadel Boltgun Metal and ground up graphite. Dusting with some various MIG Pigments finished it off. The helmet strap was scratch built from lead sheet and plastic card.

The tunic was a straightforward affair. It was painted a mix of German Field Grey and Neutral Grey. I added black to the mix for shadows and Sunny Skin Tone and Field Grey for highlights, with more Sunny Skin tone added for the higher highlights. The piping on the tunic and numbers on the shoulder boards are red. To get a nice even red tone, the piping areas were undercoated with Flat White. Then red was painted. In some areas I added some Burnt Cadmium Red to create a darker shadow colour, and Vermillion added for a highlight. The edges of the shoulder boards are a light blue I mixed from blue, white and black. The buttons were painted a mix of Citadel Dwarf Bronze and Boltgun silver.

The gasmask was base coated with English Uniform and German Camo Medium Brown. Highlights were added with Sunny Skin Tone. Shading was done with Black and Burnt Umber colours. The lenses were base coated with a mix of Green Brown and Sand Yellow, with a little more Sand Yellow added for highlights. Then I coated the lenses with Future Floor polish to gloss them up. The metal lens frames were painted with Green Grey. I added some small scale ship's rigging to the mask for the string you often see attached. The filter portion was painted German Field Grey. The straps for the gasmask and can were painted from a mix of Khaki and Olive Green. They were highlighted with straight Khaki.

The gasmask and container were glued to the chest of the bust. I added pigments and my own home brew of mud - pigments mixed with acrylic gel matte medium to the model. I wanted a very dirty well-worn look to the figure. I usually don't add so much mud and dirt, but I took a chance and it paid off. I mounted the bust on a lathe turned aluminum rod that was fitted to a walnut base.

This was a great project - a collaboration between myself and the collector. It is also a great kit to hone your painting skills, featuring a small parts count and simple colour scheme. ■

Modelspec

Andrea Miniatures 1:10 scale WWI Storm Trooper
Kit No. S9-B19

Materials Used

Kneadatite Green Stuff
Evergreen styrene rod, sheet and tube
Lead foil
Brass wire
Future floor polish

Paints & Finishing Products

Vallejo Acrylics including: Leather Brown 871, Dark Blue Grey 867, Green Brown 879, Dark Yellow 978, Sunny Skintone 845, Khaki 988, German Camo Beige 821, Olive Grey 888, Mahogany Sand 846, Brown Sand 876, Basic Skintone 815, Burnt Cadmium Red 814, Cadmium Maroon 85.

Citadel Acrylics: Dwarf Bronze and Boltgun silver.

Mig Pigments

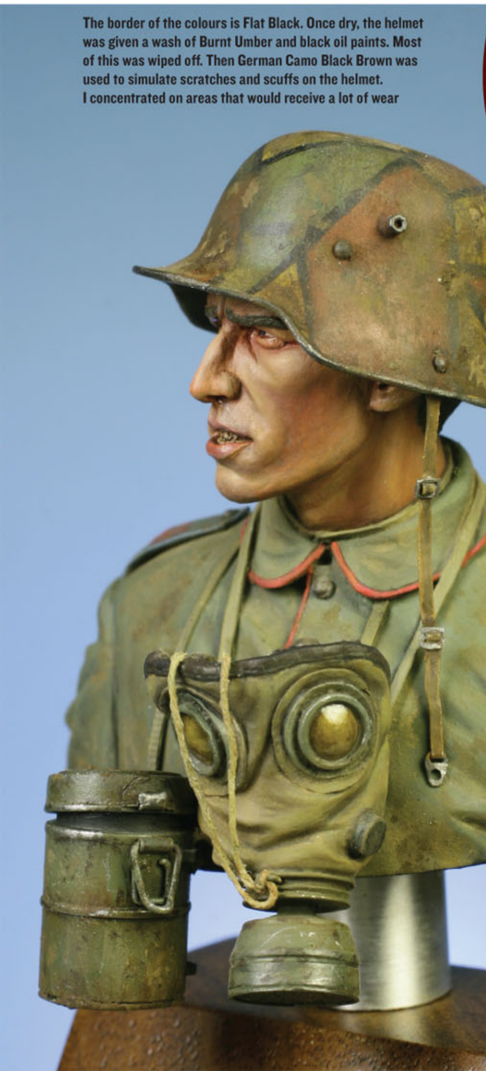
✓ Excellent pose and sculpting; small parts count; simple colour scheme.

✗ Detail on the helmet is a little soft.

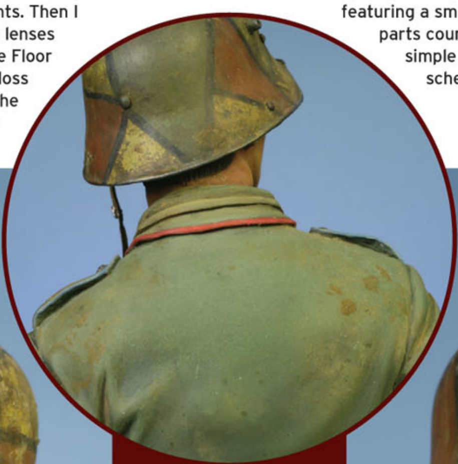
Available from

Andrea Miniatures products are available online from their website www.andrea-miniatures.com

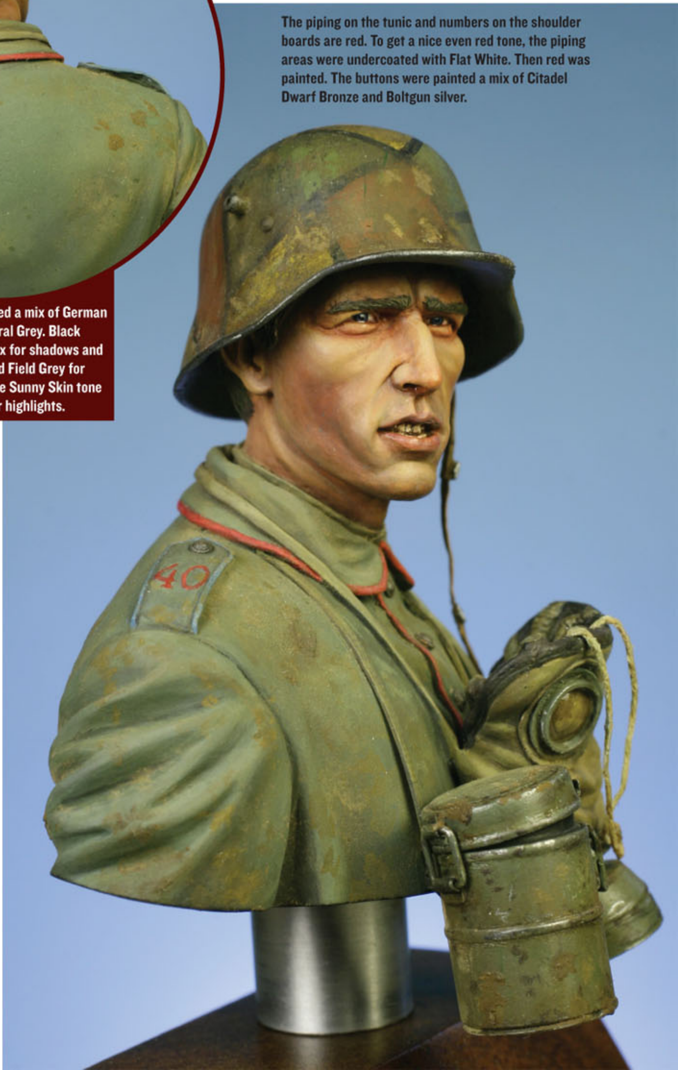
Rating ●●●●●●●●●○



The border of the colours is Flat Black. Once dry, the helmet was given a wash of Burnt Umber and black oil paints. Most of this was wiped off. Then German Camo Black Brown was used to simulate scratches and scuffs on the helmet. I concentrated on areas that would receive a lot of wear



The tunic was painted a mix of German Field Grey and Neutral Grey. Black was added to the mix for shadows and Sunny Skin Tone and Field Grey for highlights, with more Sunny Skin tone added for the higher highlights.



The piping on the tunic and numbers on the shoulder boards are red. To get a nice even red tone, the piping areas were undercoated with Flat White. Then red was painted. The buttons were painted a mix of Citadel Dwarf Bronze and Boltgun silver.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

PART ONE – THE INSIDE STORY

The Editor decides to add some scratch built detail to the interior of Bronco's 1:35 scale Hotchkiss Light Tank H 39.

The Hotchkiss H 39 was a development of the H 35. The Hotchkiss H 35 was originally conceived as an infantry support tank. Although it was well armoured, the H 35 was rejected by the French Army due to its very poor steering when operating off road. The H 35 was therefore allocated to French Cavalry units, but only because production of the Hotchkiss tank was already underway and they were given no alternative.

The upgraded Hotchkiss H 39 commenced testing in 1938. This new model featured a more powerful 120 hp engine, a flatter engine deck, longer hull, and the eventual fitting of the longer L/35 37 mm SA38 anti-tank gun.

By the beginning of the Second Word War, it was decided that the H 39 should be the standard light French tank, so plans were made to accelerate production. However, these plans were thwarted by Operation Fall Gelb, the German invasion of France and the Low Countries in May 1940.

The Hotchkiss H 39 actually saw its front line debut in Poland, where three tanks had been sent for testing. All three were quickly lost on the long marches and in combat.

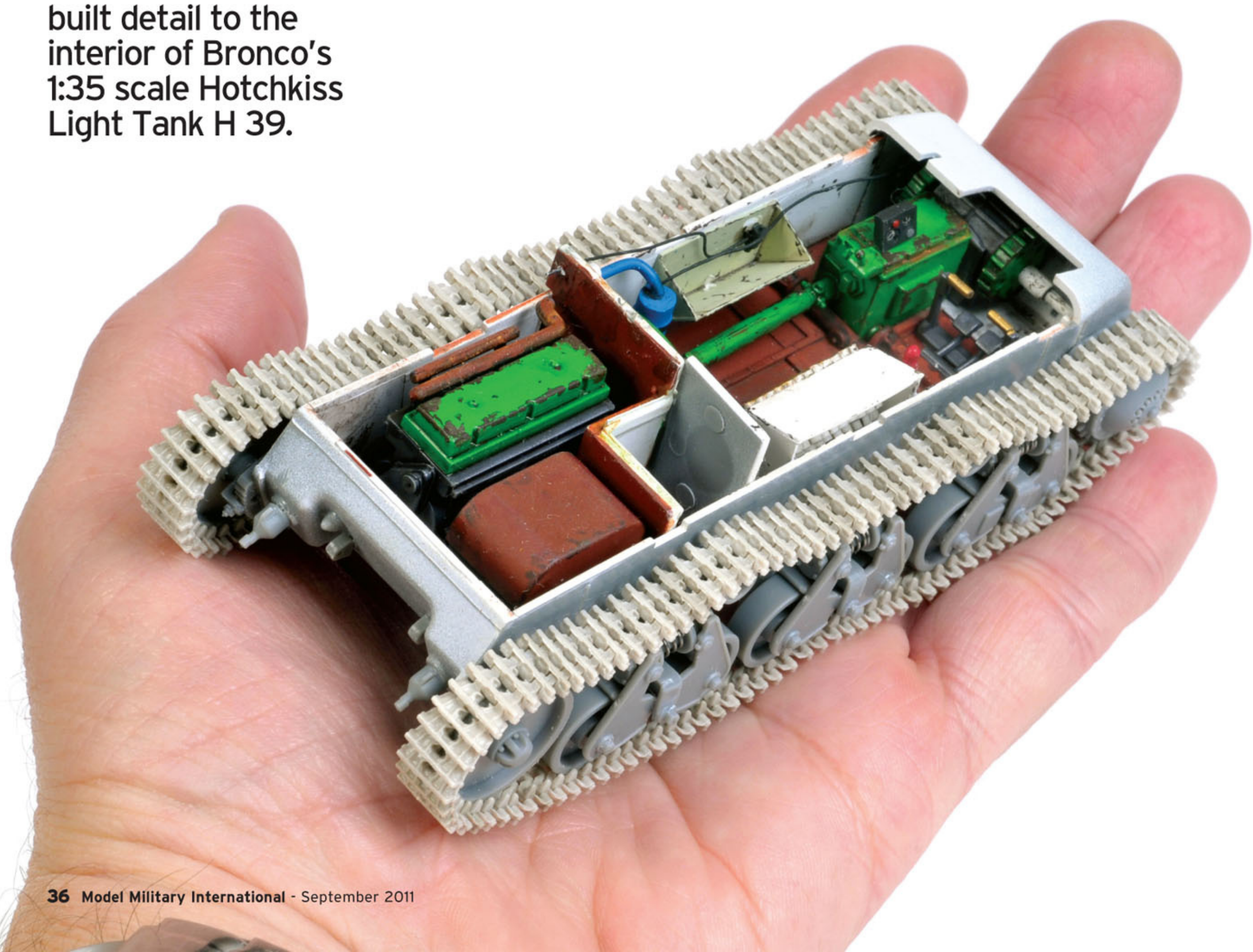
Fifteen H 39 tanks also saw action as part of an expeditionary force sent to assist Finland in their Winter War against the Soviet Union. As fate would have it, this unit was involved in the liberation of Narvik, after which the surviving 12 tanks were withdrawn to England.

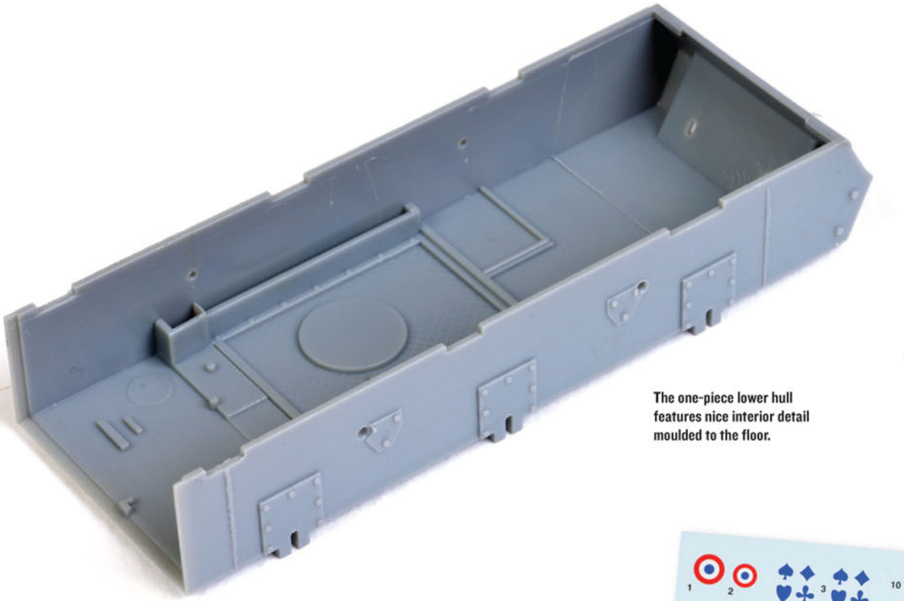
Although on paper the H 39 looked like a fair match for contemporary German light Panzers due to its comparatively heavy armour and high speed, it was limited by its two-man crew and lack of a radio. At the time of the Battle of France, the majority of H 39s were still fitted with the ineffective short-barrelled 37mm gun too.

The Germans captured more than 550 Hotchkiss light tanks, renaming them the Panzerkampfwagen 35H 734(f) or 38H 735(f). The dome turret hatch was often replaced by a flat split cupola in German service.

FRENCH HOTCHKISS LIGHT TANK H38/39
CB-35019 1/35
BRONCO
Bronco Models
CAUTION
法軍霍爾吉斯輕型坦克 H38/39

This boxing of the Bronco Hotchkiss H 38/39 was released in 2008, and included a number of corrections compared to the original 2006 version.

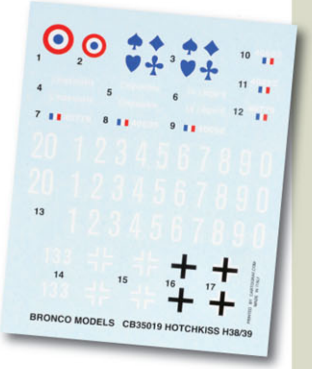




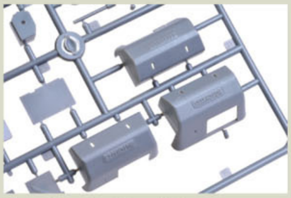
The one-piece lower hull features nice interior detail moulded to the floor.

The photo-etched fret includes a heat shield for the muffler and various smaller fittings.

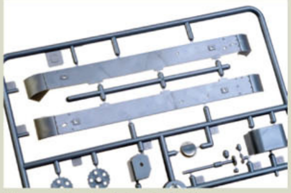
The metal barrel for the 37mm gun and metal springs for the bogies.



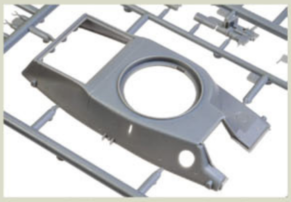
Markings are provided for six vehicles, including two in German service.



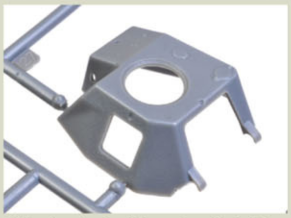
Three styles of cast transmission covers are included, but only one is used in this kit.



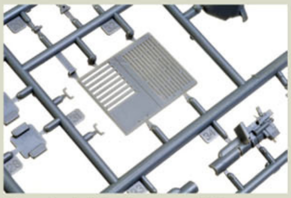
The one-piece track guards double as sponson floors.



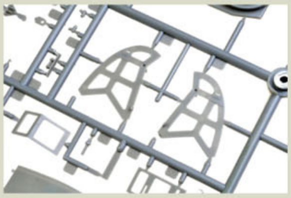
The upper hull is moulded in one piece and captures the subtle lines of this little French tank.



Unlike the other Hotchkiss tank models in 1:35 scale, the Bronco turret is the correct size.



The engine deck hatches are moulded as a separate part. It will be a simple matter to slice this part down the middle if you only want to open one hatch.



The trench skid is also included.

If you want to model a Beutepanzer, Bronco supplies the German-style split turret hatch too.

THE HOTCHKISS LIGHT TANK IN 1:35 SCALE

Three mainstream manufacturers have released Hotchkiss light tanks in 1:35 scale. Heller's kit dates from the 1970s. This best represents an early H 35 and has stiff vinyl tracks.

Trumpeter was next with their 2005 offerings. These were labelled as H 35/38 and H 39, but the kits comprised the same sets of sprues and were closer to the later variants than the early.

Bronco is the most recent entry to the Hotchkiss market with their H 38/39 kits. The configuration of the engine deck, vents, muffler and the inclusion of a trench skid suggest a fairly late production Hotchkiss H 39.

Bronco's kit is more accurate in shape and better detailed than Trumpeter's, while the Heller kit just looks old by comparison with both. Furthermore, Bronco's kit features an accurately sized turret (easily the best of the three), and more interior detail with partial engine and fighting compartments.

BLESS YOU, TERRY ASHLEY…

I built Bronco's kit number CB-35019, their Hotchkiss H 38/39 that was released in 2008. This model comprises 203 parts in grey plastic, a further 264 black plastic track links, 35 photo-etched parts on a single fret, one brass tube for the gun barrel, six metal springs and a short length of chain.

Terry Ashley reviewed the initial Bronco Hotckiss H 39, kit number CB-35001, just before its official release in 2006 on his Perth Military Modelling website. Terry concluded that this was the best Hotchkiss light tank available in 1:35 scale, but also noted a number of errors and shortcomings including poorly aligned moulds on the main wheels, incorrect idler wheels with eight bolts, incorrect muffler heat shield, and the wrong number of teeth on the drive sprocket. Terry also encountered some fit issues with the track guards, which required trimming before assembly.

Bronco was clearly paying attention to Terry's review because, by the time kit no. CB-35019 was released in 2008, literally all of the abovementioned problems were corrected. My boxing of the Hotchkiss H 38/39 has perfectly smooth tyres on the road wheels, six-bolt idler wheels, 22 tooth drive sprockets, a new photo-etched muffler heat guard, redesigned exhaust, and track guards that fitted without trimming.

Bless you, Terry Ashley!

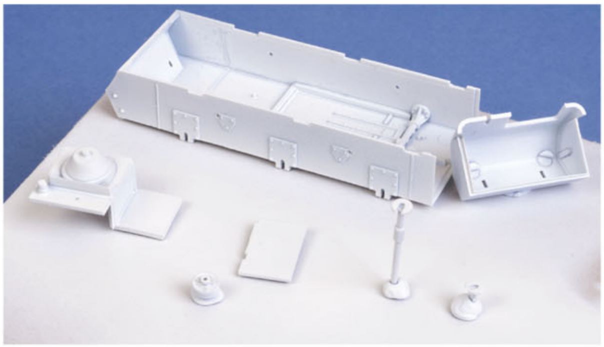
THE INSIDE STORY

Bronco provides an engine, a simplified fuel tank, transmission, final drive, main drive shaft, flywheel and rear firewall, a seat and driver's controls for the kit's interior. Although this is far from complete, it is enough to convey the impression of a busy interior through the open hatches of the finished model.

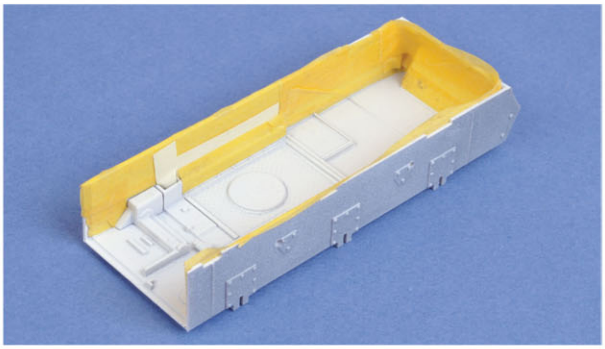
I started by assembling the interior parts into separate groups based on what colour they were going to be painted. This resulted in five groups – white, oxide red, bright green, iron and black.

The choice of paints was based on full-colour walkaround (or ▶

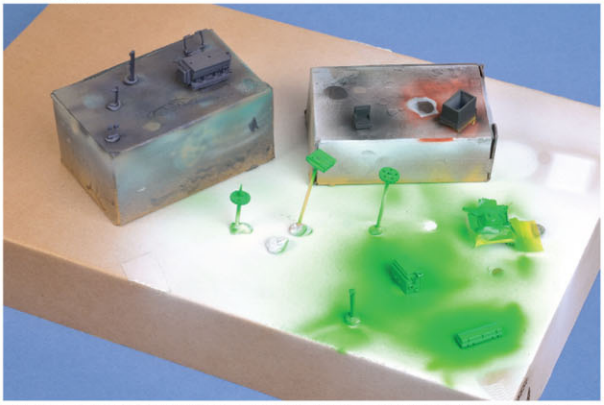
Individual track links are supplied in black plastic.



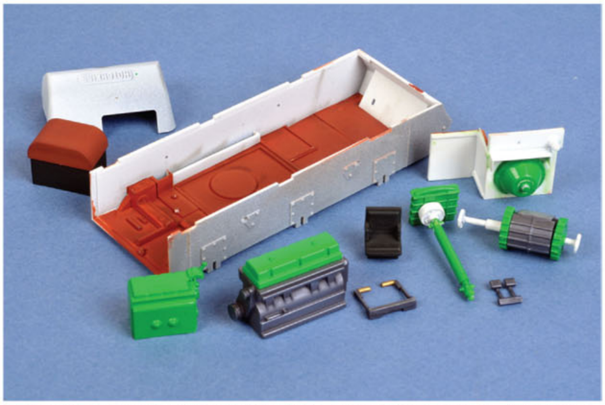
The lower hull and other interior elements received a base coat of Tamiya Fine White Primer straight from the spray can.



The interior sidewalls of the lower hull were carefully masked with various widths of Tamiya tape.



Other parts were separated into groups based on their colour. These were tacked to small boxes and sprayed Tamiya X-28 Park Green, Gunze Mr Metal Color 21 Iron and XF-69 NATO Black.



Note the primer red floor after removal of the masking tape. The bright colours are based on reference photos of the Samur Museum Hotchkiss.

perhaps more accurately, crawlaround) photos of the Saumur Museum H 39 in the Editions du Barbotin book, "Focus No. 5, Hotchkiss H 39". I was particularly taken with the lurid green drive train elements.

The white parts were painted first. Tamiya's Fine White Primer was used straight from the can. The interior sidewalls were masked with Tamiya tape and the floor was then sprayed with a red oxide mix. This was primarily Tamiya XF-7 Hull Red with around 15% XF-3 Flat Yellow and 15% XF-64 Red Brown.

The bright green parts were sprayed with Tamiya acrylic X-28 Park Green, and metal parts received a coat of Gunze Mr Metal Color 212 "Iron" lacquer. This is a buffable metallic paint. The handles of the throttle controls were brush painted using Mr Metal Color 219 "Brass". The seat and the base of the fuel tank were sprayed with Tamiya XF-69 NATO Black.

At this stage the collection of brightly coloured parts seemed more suited to a circus than a military vehicle, but I held my nerve and carried on.

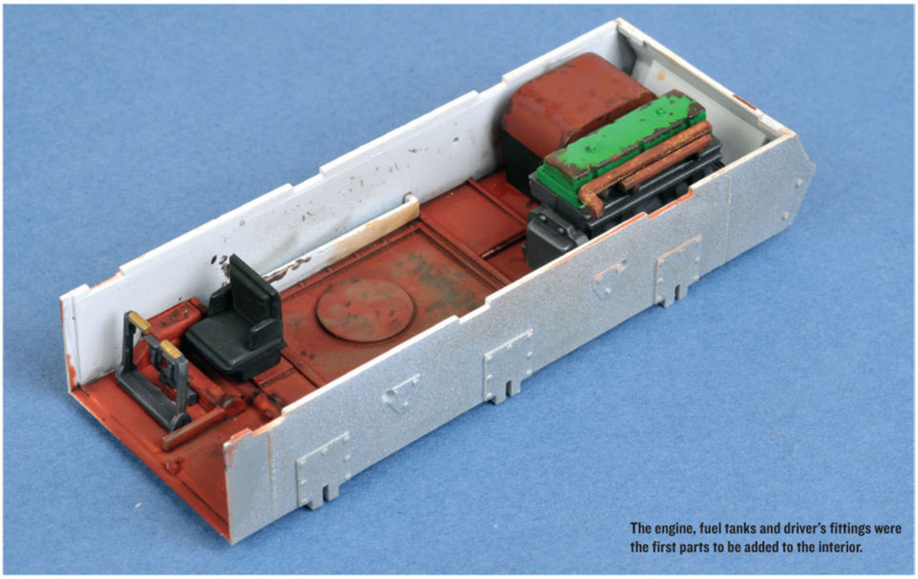
Some weathering was added, especially to the white sidewalls, the oxide floor and the edges of the cylinder head cover and the transmission. Chipping was applied with both the tip of a toothpick and a fine paintbrush using Vallejo Panzer Aces 302 Dark Rust. The engine exhaust manifold was first treated to a coat of Vallejo Dark Rust, then Mig Productions Light Rust Effects and Standard Rust Effects; plus a wet but sparing application of Mig Pigments P025 Standard Rust and 416 Fresh Rust. A tiny amount of Fresh Rust was also added to the edges of the cylinder head cover with a micro-brush.

Finally, a wash of thinned Winsor & Newton 25 Lamp Black; 35 Raw Umber oil paints was brushed onto the interior parts before they were glued into the lower hull.

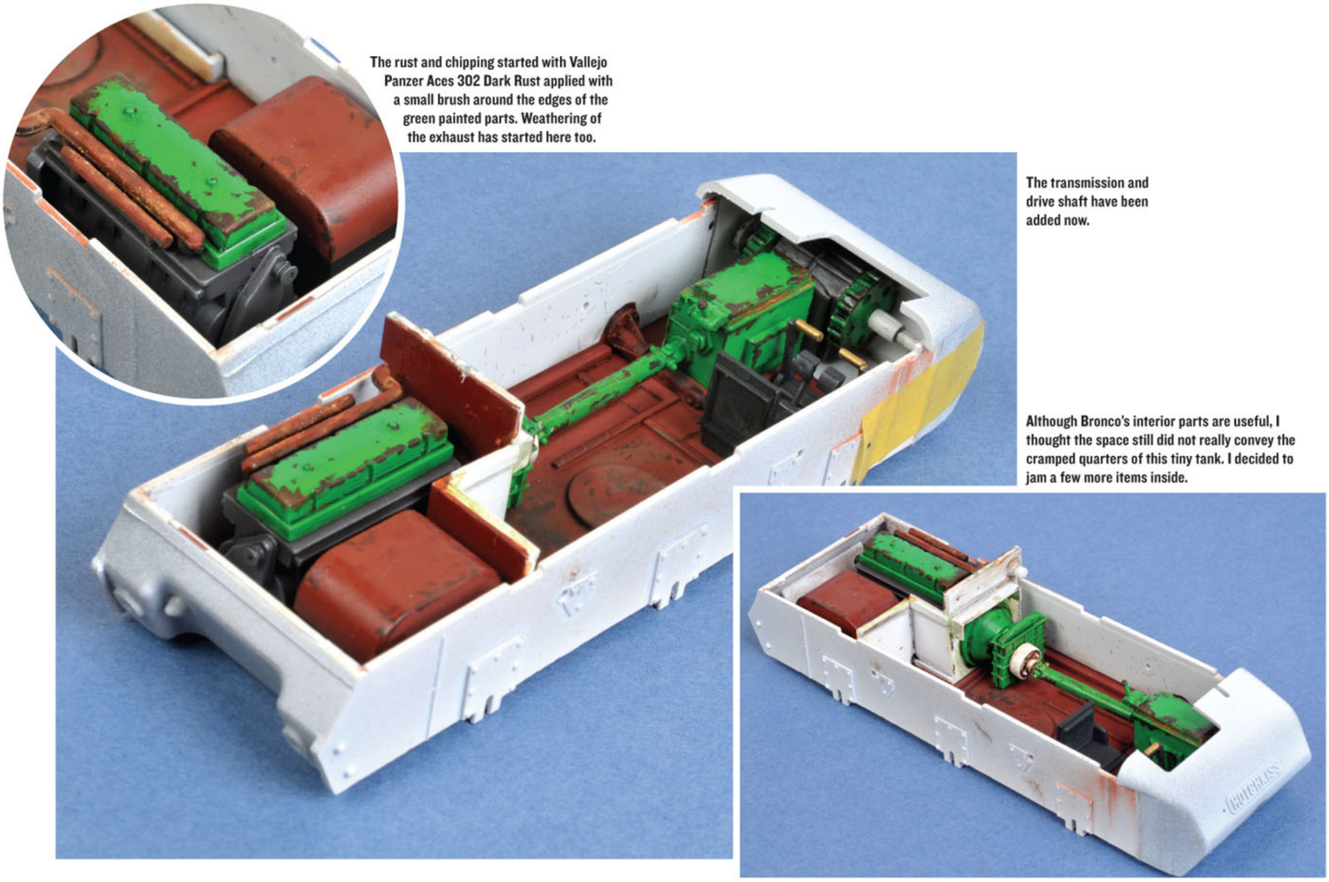
FILLING IN THE BLANKS

With all the kit parts in place, I was pretty happy with the interior but comparison with reference photos showed that a lot of elements were missing. I thought that the fighting compartment did not really look cramped enough, so I decided to scratch build some of the missing parts.

The first and most complex job was building the ammunition rack. Reference photos showed this to be a trapezoid-sided box with five rows of 14 tubes. I decided to simplify construction somewhat by making a box with four rows of



The engine, fuel tanks and driver's fittings were the first parts to be added to the interior.



The rust and chipping started with Vallejo Panzer Aces 302 Dark Rust applied with a small brush around the edges of the green painted parts. Weathering of the exhaust has started here too.

The transmission and drive shaft have been added now.

Although Bronco's interior parts are useful, I thought the space still did not really convey the cramped quarters of this tiny tank. I decided to jam a few more items inside.

12. Also, instead of empty tubes (which would be impractically thin in this scale), I used plastic rod to represent ammunition loaded in the stowage tubes.

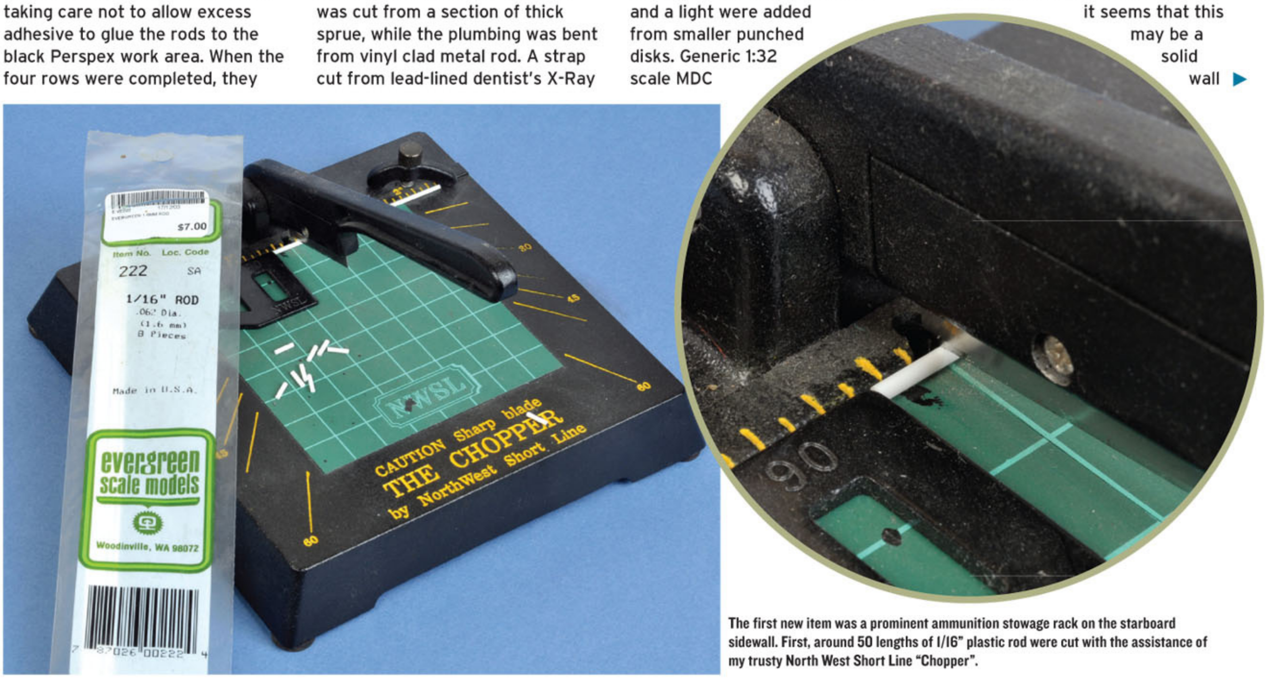
First I cut 48 short lengths of 1/16" Evergreen plastic rod to size using my trusty North West Line "Chopper". The short rods were lined up into individual rows of 12 using a simple home-made right-angle jig, then glued together with Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement, taking care not to allow excess adhesive to glue the rods to the black Perspex work area. When the four rows were completed, they were glued together in a staggered arrangement. The trapezoid sides were marked out on a piece of paper and then traced onto thin plastic sheet. These were cut out and glued to the sides of the rods. The top of the rack was measured, cut to size and glued in place.

A blue tubular device could be seen plumbed in front of the engine firewall in reference photos. This may have been a heater for the fighting compartment. The body was cut from a section of thick sprue, while the plumbing was bent from vinyl clad metal rod. A strap cut from lead-lined dentist's X-Ray paper was wrapped around the top of the body.

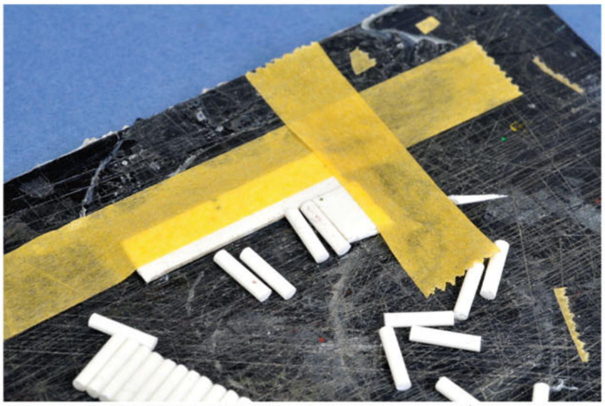
A large open bin mounted on the port sidewall was cut from Evergreen plastic sheet.

Another simple but effective addition was the driver's instrument cluster on top of the transmission. A small box was sliced from styrene strip, and the instrument panel was cut from thin plastic sheet. The panel was punched with two holes. A knob and a light were added from smaller punched disks. Generic 1:32 scale MDC instrument dial decals were fitted to the recessed circles after the instrument cluster was painted.

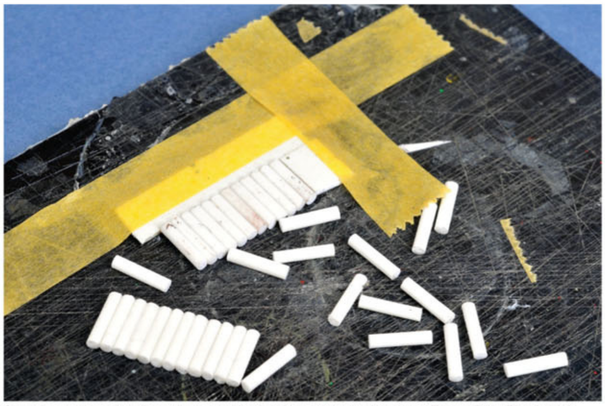
One of the reference photos seemed to suggest a small concertina hatch at the rear of the fighting compartment. This was cut from a Post-It Note that had been coloured black with a thick Sharpie. The concertina folds were achieved with a pair of flat-nosed electrical pliers. With the benefit of later seeing additional photos however, it seems that this may be a solid wall ▶



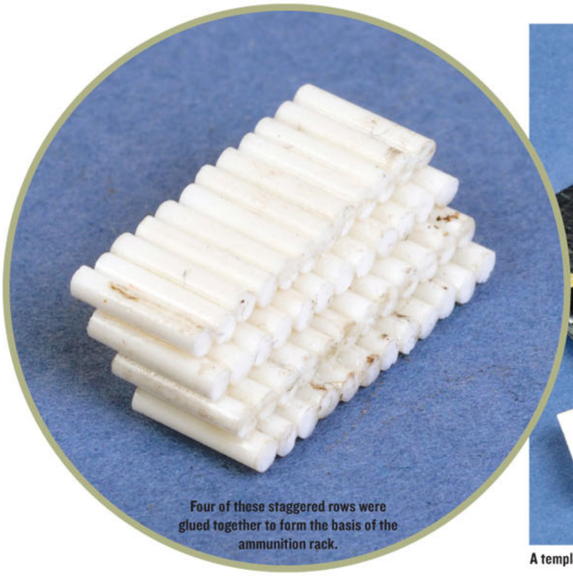
The first new item was a prominent ammunition stowage rack on the starboard sidewall. First, around 50 lengths of 1/16" plastic rod were cut with the assistance of my trusty North West Short Line "Chopper".



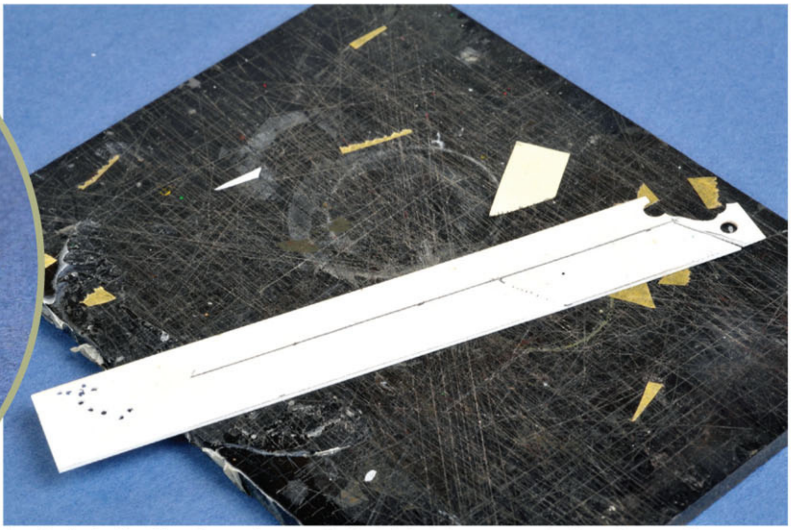
A simple right angle jig was set up on a small Perspex base. Twelve pieces of the 1/16" rod were lined up along the jig.



Once the piece were in place, they were glued with a sparing application of Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement – sparing to avoid gluing the rods to the jig or to the base!



Four of these staggered rows were glued together to form the basis of the ammunition rack.



A template for the sides of the rack was cut from paper. Two identical plastic pieces were cut using the template as a guide.

or a steel hatch.

An electronic junction box was also made from plastic rod. The rod was drilled though and fine fuse wire glued in place before both the plastic and wire were cut to the appropriate lengths.

The new interior parts were painted – Vallejo 963 Medium Blue for the heater and ducting; 50;50 Tamiya XF-1 Flat White and XF-14 J.A. Grey for the open stowage bin; Tamiya XF-69 NATO Black for the instrument cluster and junction box; and Tamiya White Primer for the ammunition stowage box with Brass shells – and installed inside the lower hull.

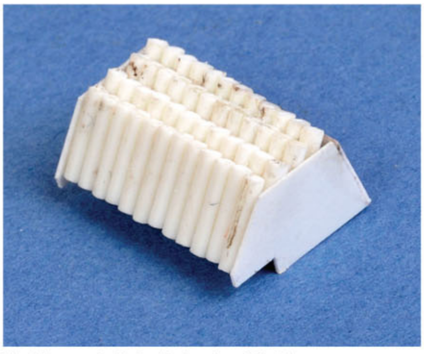
In retrospect, the ends of the shells looked pretty rough, especially when highlighted with shiny brass paint. Next time I will punch individual plastic disks for the bases of the shells.

Overall though, I was much happier with the newly cramped confines of the fighting compartment.

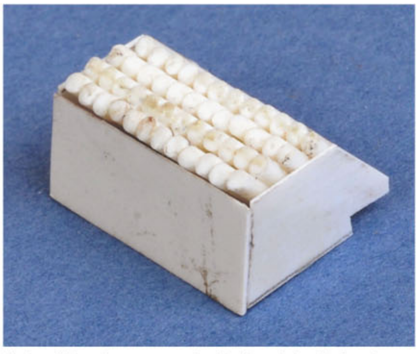
RUNNING WITH THE RUNNING GEAR

Bronco's running gear is nicely done. Each bogie unit is made up from nine parts in grey plastic and one metal spring. Although the instructions state that glue should not be used on the plastic parts that trap the spring, I did actually secure these parts with Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement. The suspension is not workable, so gluing this sub-assembly makes handling and subsequent construction easier.

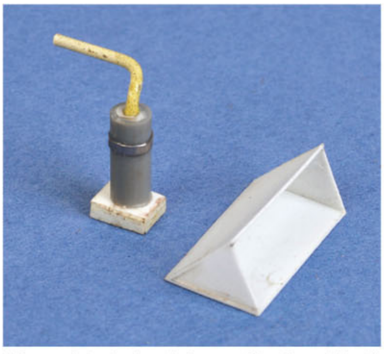
After trying a few different



The sides were simply glued to the edges of the tubes.

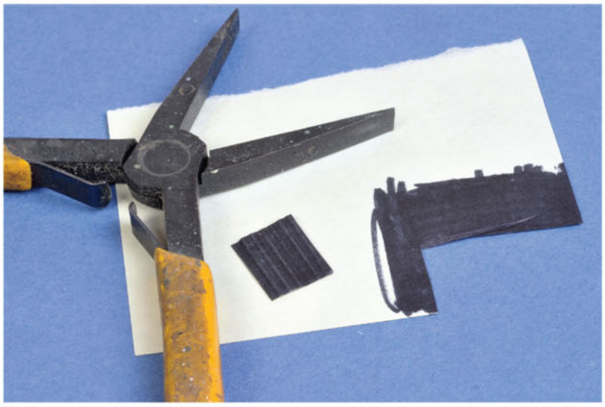


The top of the rack was measured, cut to size and glued in place to complete the assembly.

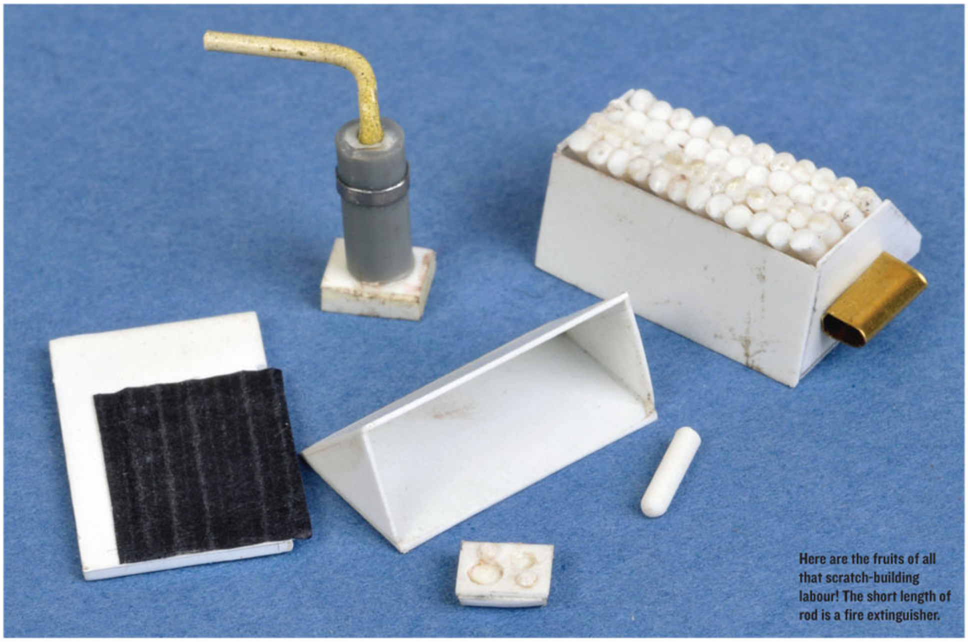


Reference photos also showed a large open bin on the port sidewall, plus a blue cylindrical device – perhaps a cabin heater - to its rear. The heater was cut from thick sprue with a strap from lead-backed paper. The bin was made from Evergreen plastic sheet.

The real tank had a small instrument cluster on top of the transmission. The face of the panel was made using my Waldron Precision Punch and Die set.

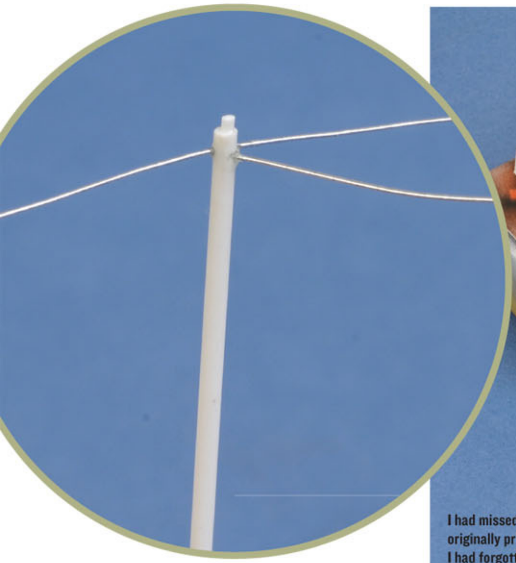


The Saumur tank seems to have a small concertina hatch at the rear of the fighting compartment. This was cut from paper – a Post-It Note to be exact – that had been coloured black with a thick Sharpie. The concertina folds were achieved with a pair of flat-nosed electrical pliers.

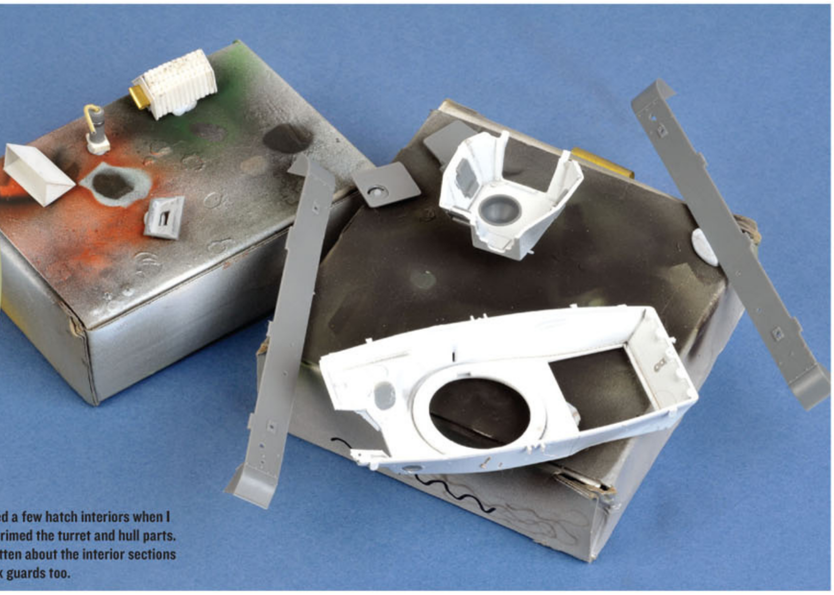


Here are the fruits of all that scratch-building labour! The short length of rod is a fire extinguisher.

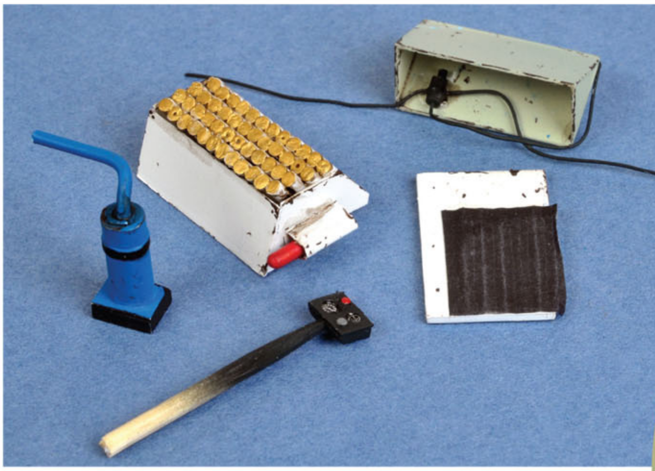
> **"I thought that the fighting compartment did not really look cramped enough, so I decided to scratch build some of the missing parts…"**



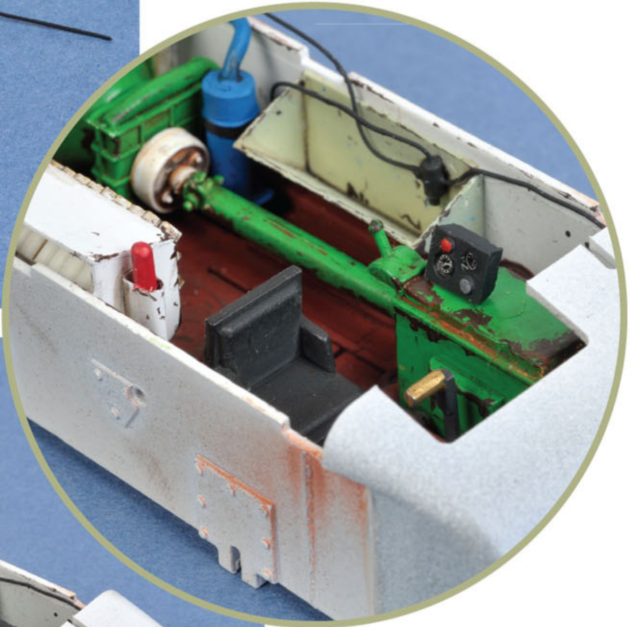
An electrical junction box was made from two pieces of plastic rod, drilled through with a pin vise. Beading wire was threaded through the holes and glued in place.

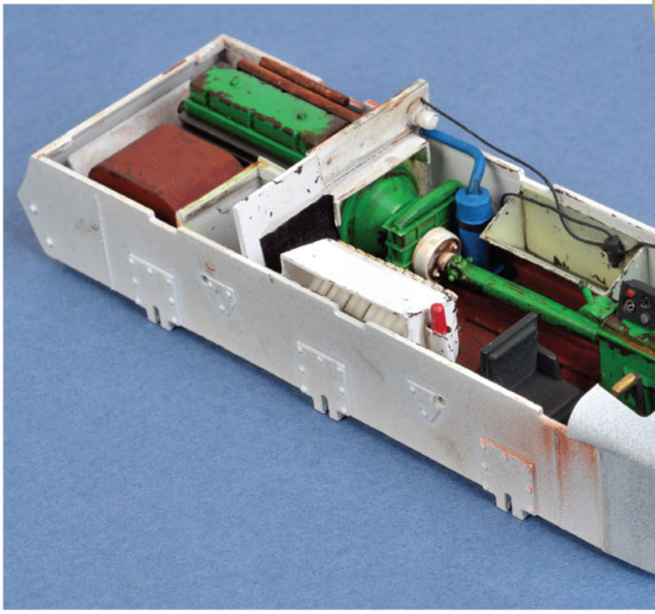


I had missed a few hatch interiors when I originally primed the turret and hull parts. I had forgotten about the interior sections of the track guards too.

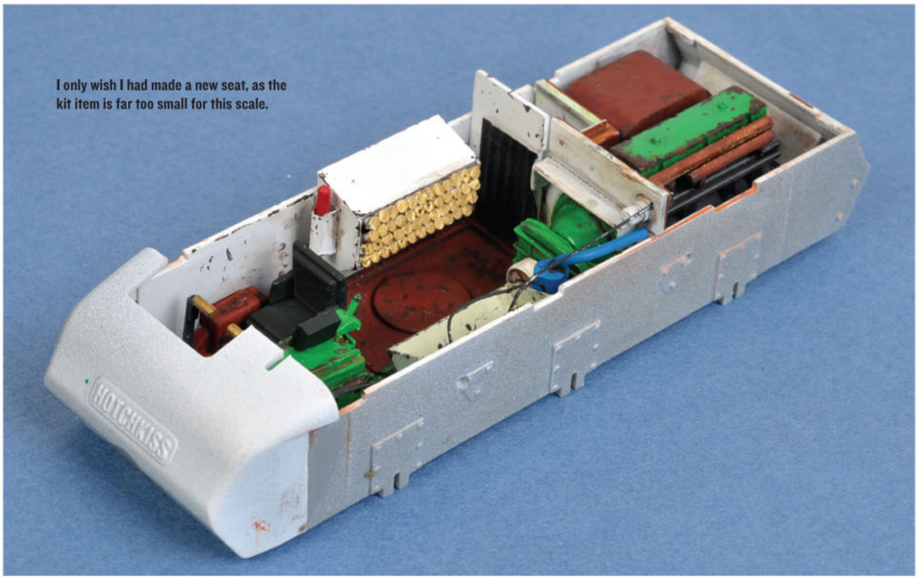


Here are the five additional scratch-built parts, including the electrical box fitted inside the stowage bin, now painted and weathered. Total time required to build and paint these extra parts was between 6 and 7 hours.





The addition of the bins, the heater, the curtained rear door and the small instrument cluster certainly makes the interior look busier.



I only wish I had made a new seat, as the kit item is far too small for this scale.

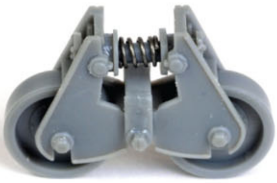
sequences, I found that the best way to assemble the bogies was to first glue the spring sub-assembly (parts A4, A5, A10 and G) into the rear bogie half (part A23), then add the road wheels (parts A2 – make sure they are all pointing forward, by the way) and front bogie covers (parts A24 or A25). I clamped these assemblies until the cement dried then finally glued the mounting bracket (parts A1) in place using liquid cement.

The mounting brackets do not form a particularly positive bond between the bogie and the lower hull, so I tacked them in place with super glue. The fit of the return rollers was a bit loose on my kit, so super glue was also used for these.

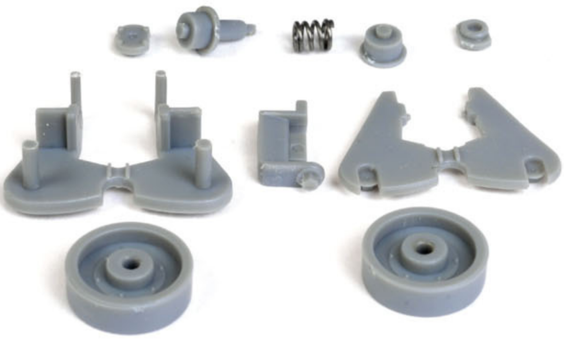
Test fitting showed that the idler wheels were not aligned with the road wheels and return rollers. Without alteration, they stood too far out from the body. To bring the idler wheels back in line with the road wheels, the idler wheel mounts were cut off. The modified wheels and mounts were drilled out to accept new brass locating pins before being glued in place.

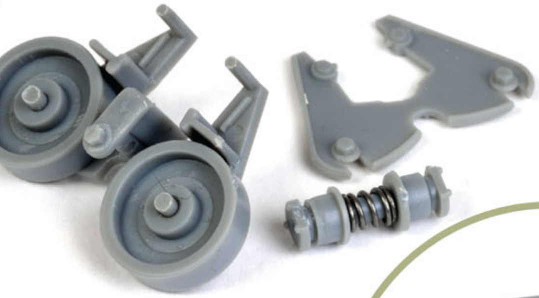
MAKING TRACKS

The kit supplied individual track links looked quite nice but I could not resist using the superb click-

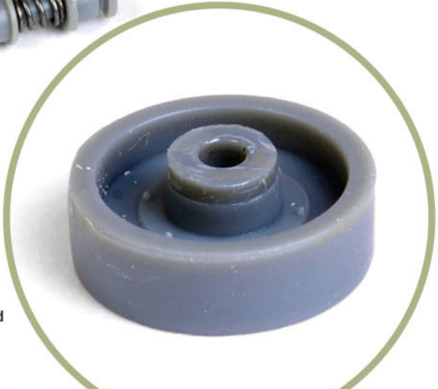


Each bogie unit is made up from ten parts, including a metal spring.

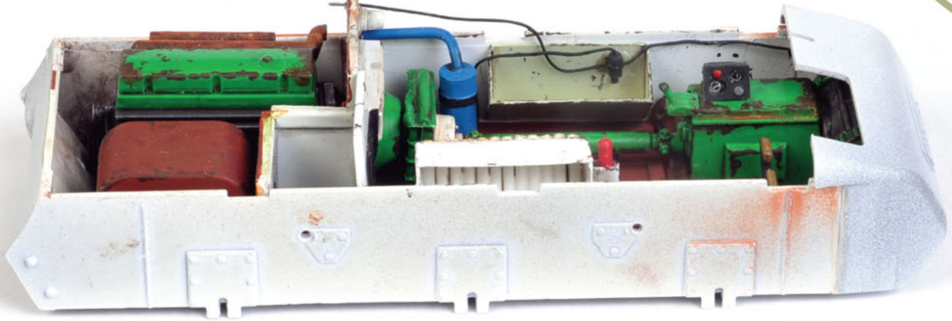




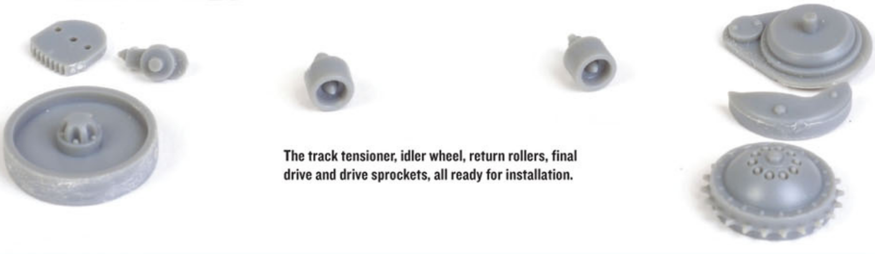
The instructions suggest that the plastic parts around the spring should not be glued, but I secured mine to make sure they did not come adrift after assembly.



Strangely, just one of the road wheels had a raised centre section. I cut this back to the same height as the others so that it would fit between the front and rear bogie halves.



> **"At this stage the collection of brightly coloured parts seemed more suited to a circus than a military vehicle, but I held my nerve and carried on..."**



The track tensioner, idler wheel, return rollers, final drive and drive sprockets, all ready for installation.

ICM
New in the Best
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scale
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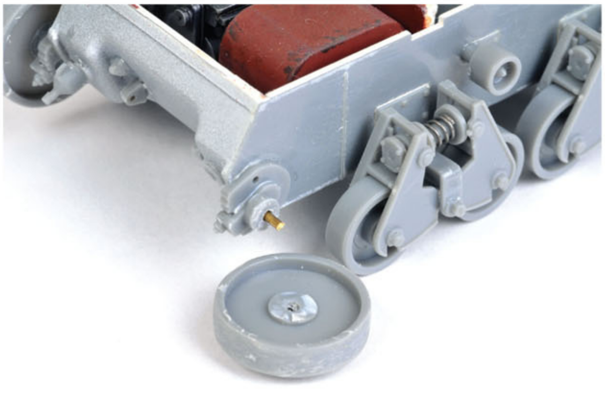
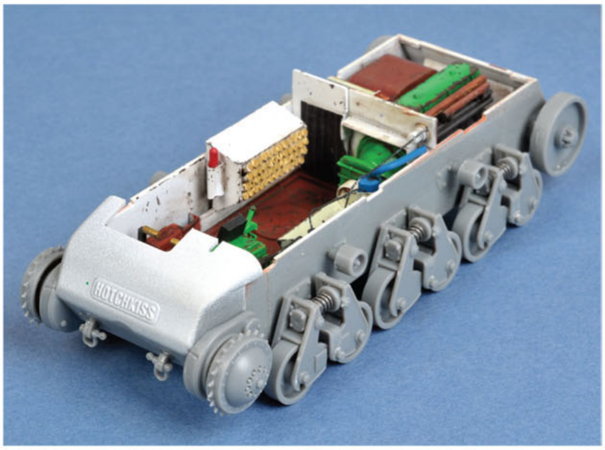
Fax: 972-242-3775
E-Mail: sales@militarymodel.net
Web Site: www.militarymodel.net
http://www.squadron.com/ItemDetails.asp?item=ICM35522

- **This particular kit is the very first attempt by ICM to release a le.gl.Einheits-Pkw (Kfz.2) plastic kit in 1:35 scale into the market**
- **Highly detailed chassis, engine and interior**
- **4 versions decal sheet included**



The idler wheels stood too far out from the body (i.e. they were not aligned with the road wheels and return rollers) so the raised mount on the rear face was cut off. The modified wheels and mounts were drilled out to accept new brass locating pins.



The suspension went together surprisingly quickly, and looks good when it is installed.

> **"The WWII Productions track links work exactly as advertised and they were ready to use straight from the bag. No cleanup was necessary at all..."**

together workable track links from WWII Productions.

The WWII Productions track links work exactly as advertised and they were ready to use straight from the bag. No cleanup was necessary at all.

I confess that I was a little intimidated by the pile of tiny links at first, but assembly really could not have been easier. Holding one link in a pair of tweezers, I simply slipped the locating hole on one side over the pin of another, then pressed the link down onto the pin on the other side. The resulting lengths of tracks are realistically workable, and may easily be wrapped around the drive sprocket and idler wheel.

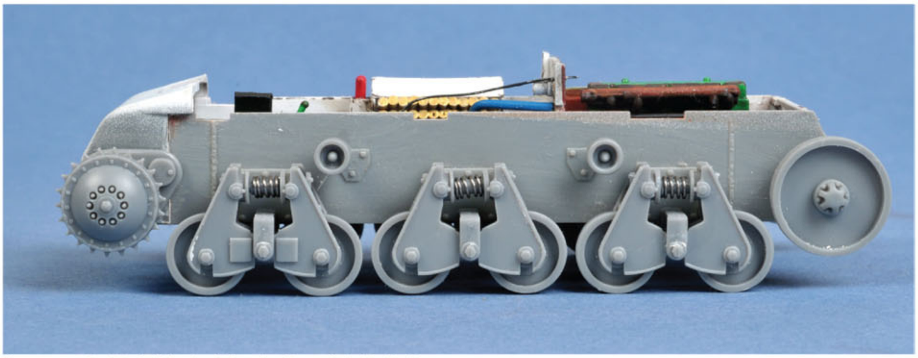
It took probably half an hour or so to get into a rhythm, but assembling both full track lengths took only around three hours once I had perfected the technique.

It has been well over ten years since I assembled a set of WWII Productions tracks, so this was a pleasant reminder of just how good they really are.

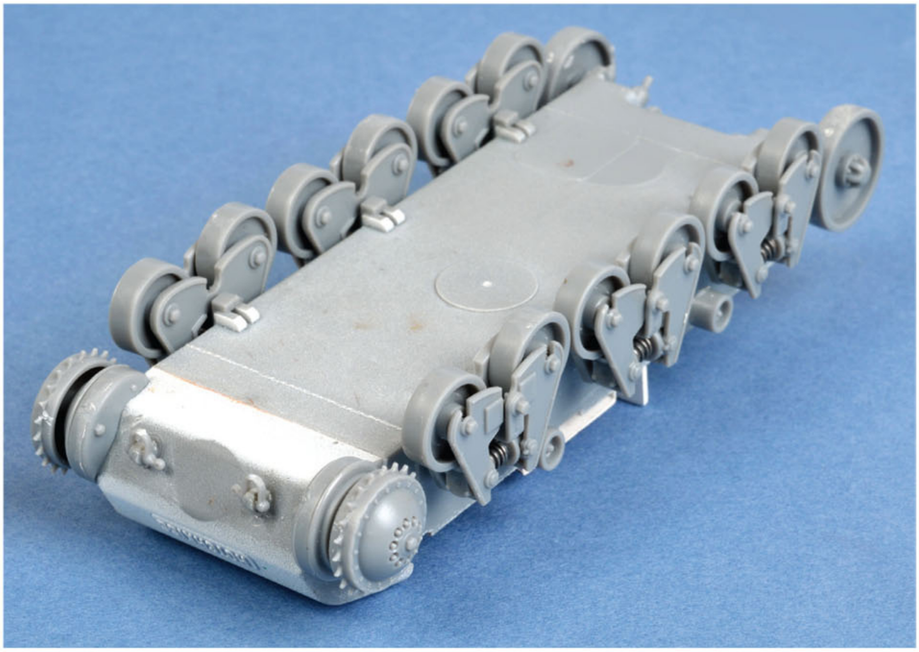
I test-fitted the lengths of tracks around the running gear and found that I only had to remove one link per side for a nice fit with noticeable sag along the top runs. The ends of the lengths were now joined to form two complete resin track runs. These were carefully looped around the drive sprocket and idler wheel for a very authentic result. ■

NEXT TIME

In the next instalment, Brett completes construction and paints his Bronco 1:35 scale Hotchkiss H 39.



The correct style of six-bolt flat-faced idler wheel is supplied with this kit.



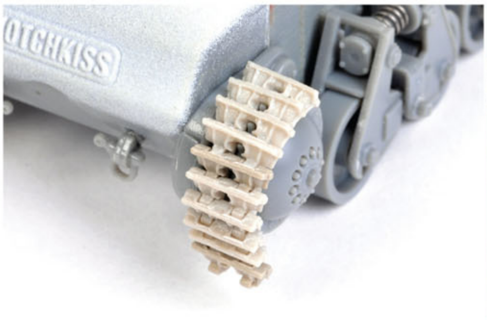
The bogie units are installed via relatively small mounts. The were first tacked in place with thick, slow setting super glue to allow adjustment before the adhesive set.

The kit supplied individual track links looked quite nice...

WWII
PRODUCTIONS

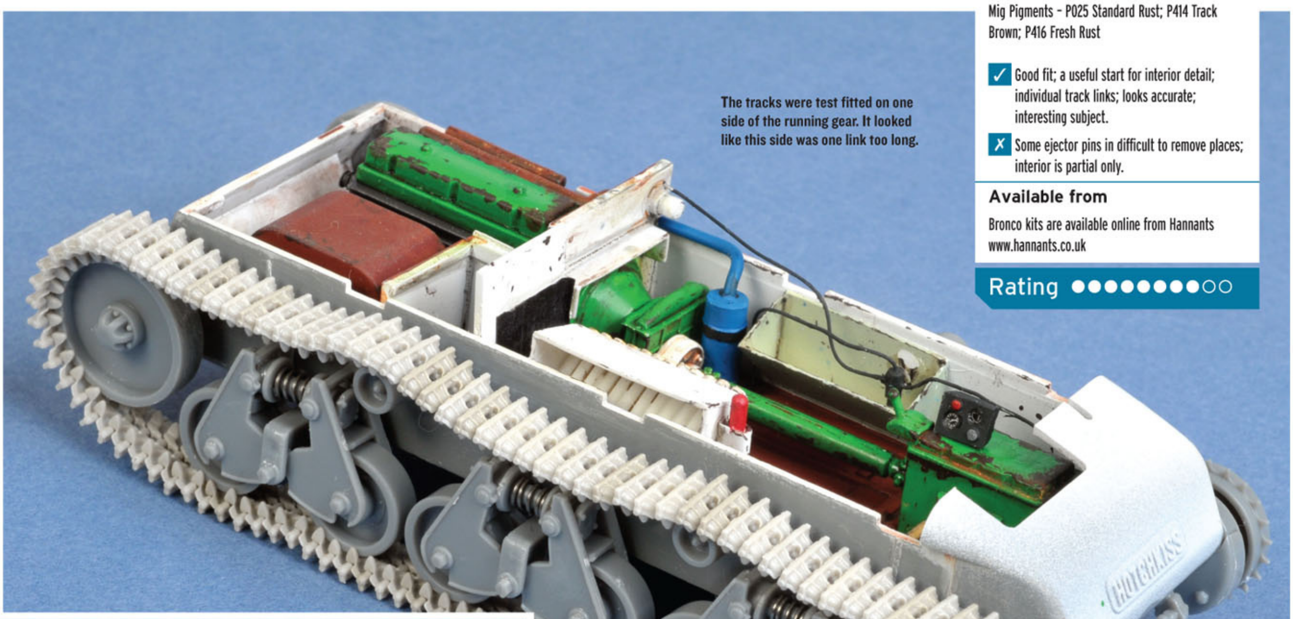
...but I could not resist using the superb click-together workable track links from WWII Productions.

The WWII Productions track links work exactly as advertised. Slip the hole on one side of a link over the pin of another, then press fit the other side.

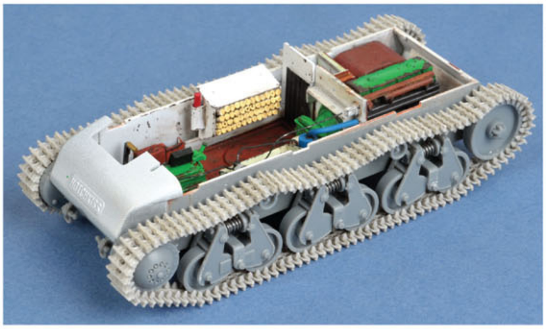


The resulting lengths of tracks are realistically workable, and may easily be fitted around the drive sprocket and idler wheel.

Assembling both full track lengths took only around three hours.



The tracks were test fitted on one side of the running gear. It looked like this side was one link too long.



With a single link removed, the length was perfect – although I soon realised that I had installed the tracks the wrong way around. It was a simple matter to remove the tracks and re-install them with the tracks running in the right direction.

Modelspec

Bronco 1:35 scale Hotchkiss Light Tank H 38/39.
Kit No. CB-35019

Tools and Modelling Products:

WWII Productions Item No. 35024 - Hotchkiss H38/39 tracks for Trumpeter and Bronco kits (email ww2productions@netspace.net.au)
Iwata HP-CH Airbrush
Aztek A470 Airbrush
Waldron Precision Punch and Die Set
The Chopper by North West Short Line
Tamiya Extra Thin Cement
Revell Contacta Cement
Gator's Grip acrylic glue
Evergreen plastic sheet and 1/16" rod
Darice Craft Designer JP28 28G Beading Wire Silver

Paints and Finishing Products:

Tamiya Acrylics - X-28 Park Green; XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-3 Flat Yellow; XF-7 Flat Red; XF-14 J.A. Grey; XF-54 Dark Sea Grey; XF-64 Red Brown; XF-69 NATO Black.
Tamiya Fine White Spray Primer
Vallejo Panzer Aces Acrylics - 301 Light Rust; 302 Dark Rust.
Vallejo Model Colour Acrylics - 70957 Flat Red; 963 Medium Blue
Pencils - Brown Artist's Pencil; 2B Graphite Pencil.
Model Master Flat Clear Lacquer
Future Floor Polish
Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer
Winsor & Newton Oil Paints - 25 Lamp Black; 35 Raw Umber
Mig Productions Oil and Grease Stain Mixture; Light Rust Effects; Standard Rust Effects.
Mig Pigments - P025 Standard Rust; P414 Track Brown; P416 Fresh Rust

✓ Good fit; a useful start for interior detail; individual track links; looks accurate; interesting subject.

✗ Some ejector pins in difficult to remove places; interior is partial only.

Available from

Bronco kits are available online from Hannants
www.hannants.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

Diary Dates

To have your event included on this page, send your details to:
Diary Dates, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane,
Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel:01525 222573·Fax:01525 222574·Email:editor@modelmilitary.com

August 13th
PRESENT ARMS 2011 MILITARY MODELLING SHOW
Essex MAFVA is pleased to present "Present Arms 2011 Military Modelling Show" to be held on 13 August 2011 at the Mawney School, Mawney Road, ROMFORD, Essex, RM7 7HR.
The show will feature club & trade stands, refreshments and parking available.
Hours of operation will be 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Contact: Gary Ross on 020 8593 6792 or by email on rossgary8@aol.com

August 27th-28th
XVI Open GPC - The biggest Plastic Model Show in Brazil.
We are pleased to advise that the XVI Open GPC Plastic Model contest and exhibition will be held in the Festa do Figo Exhibition Hall, in Valinhos (near Campinas, São Paulo state, Brazil).
The Open GPC is the single biggest plastic models contest and exhibition in Brazil, and surely one of the biggest (if not the biggest!) model show in Latin America.
This year the show will be held in a much bigger space, sponsored by Valinhos Prefecture, and accounting for 1.800 sq.m. and 150+ linear meters of contest tables. Several vendors of modelling-related stuff will be present, so the modeller will find models, paints, glues, aftermarket parts, decals, tools and all material he needs.
Admission is free, but there is a small fee to submit models for the contest. The show will be open on the 27th from noon to 5 PM, and on the 28th from 8 AM to 5 PM, Brasilia time (about GMT + 4h).
More info: www.grupogpc.com.br

September 3rd
Cornwall Model Show.
The annual Cornwall Model Show will be held from 10:00am to 6:30pm at St Johns Hall. Alverton Street, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2QR.
Traders, Competitions, Clubs.
Admission: Adult £1.50 Child £1
Contact: Arthur Johnson
ipmswestcornwall@hotmail.co.uk

September 10th
The Edmonton International AFV Model Show, Open House & Military Vehicle Display.
The show will be at HMCS Nonsuch, 117 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G-3E8, Canada.
We will have Military Artists: Ron Volstad and Robert Bailey present.
Registration 09:00 til 12:00, show goes to 6pm.
Food supplied by a fundrasing organisation.
Army Motors will be present to display historical Military Vehicles, with re enactors as well.
Present day Military vehicles and open house.
Contact for more info:
Anthony Sewards: teutonicknights@shaw.ca
Jon Baniak: jonbaniak@shaw.ca
Rod Dumouchel: krdumouc@telus.net
Website: www.aafvms.ca
EIAFVMS - Po Box 71071, Edmonton, Alberta, T5E-6J8

September 17th
THE ALBERTA MILITARY MODELLERS' SHOW
will be held at The Military Museums, 4520 Crowchild Trail SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
Registration is 09:00 until 11:00 with the show finishing up at 4:30.
All museum galleries will be open to visitors. There will be also be vendors, and a silent auction.
This is the only model show in Western Canada that rates armour, aircraft, ship, and figure entries on the ability of the modeller and not against other entries.
All entries will receive written feedback.
More information may be found on the website: www.albertamilmodshow.ca

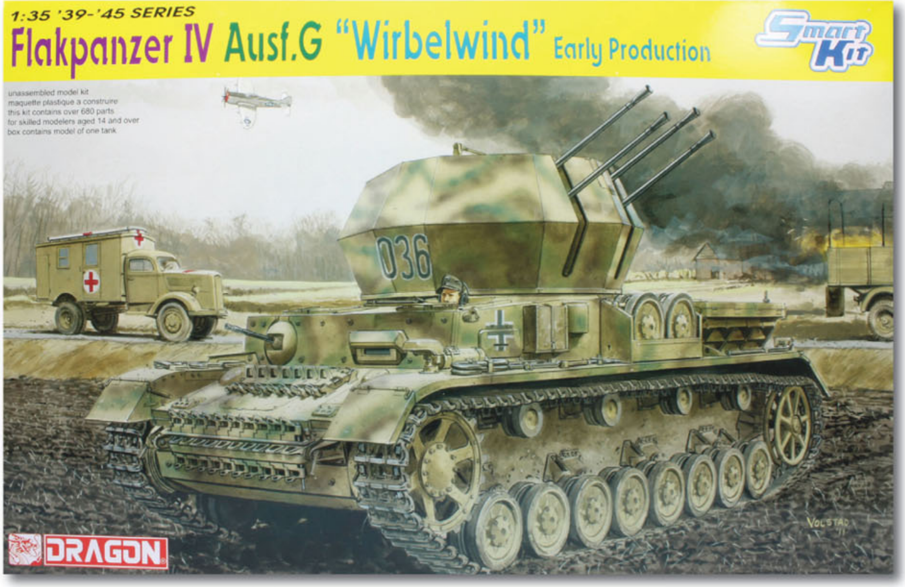
September 18th
SUTTON COLFIELD MODEL SPECTACULAR
The Sutton Colfield Model Maker's Society presents the Model Spectacular 2011 on Sunday 18 September from 10:00 am and 4:30 pm at Sutton Colfield Town Hall, B73 6AB.
There will be model competitions in junior and senior categories and visiting clubs.
Contact point for Traders:
Andy Keane – 07581 493171
Andy_kk@live.co.uk
Contact point for Clubs:
Mark Knight – 07865 094582
markallistair@hotmail.co.uk
More information may be found on the website http://suttonmodellers.fotopic.net

October 20th-23rd
The IPMS-Hellas Annual Expo – Competition will take place from 20 to 23 October 2011, at the "Apollon" conference center in Piraeus, Greece.
The competition will be held in the Main Hall and there shall be a separate hall for the trade stands.
More information and details as we go on, will be published on our webpage: www.ipms-hellas.gr
Any questions should be sent to: ipms-hellas@windowslive.com

October 21st-22nd
IPMS USA Region II Convention
New Jersey IPMS once again is hosting the IPMS USA Region II Convention, we named JerseyCon II, at a new location - The Wyndham Hotel & Convention Center, Route 73, off Exit 4 on the New Jersey Turnpike, Mt Laurel, New Jersey. This new location offers better lighting, more vendor space and a better display area than the previous location. Show Theme: "1941 - America Enters the War". For more details contact Big Bill tomcatter53@optimum.net or the club's website www.njipms.org

October 23rd
NEW VENUE FOR IPMS HELLAS NATIONALS.
The 30th IPMS Hellas Nationals will be held from the 20th to the 23rd October 2011 at the Olympic Airways employee Cultural Centre (Πολ.Κ.Ε.Ο.Α. Building - former O.A. International Departures Terminal - Entry from Poseidonos Av.) at the Former Western Air Terminal at Hellinikon.
Guest Stars for this year's competition will be Mr Miguelle Jimenez (MIG) from Spain and Mr Tsonos Megas (from Greece).
Full details may be found on the IPMS Hellas website: www.ipms-hellas.gr
For any questions please email: ipms-hellas@windowslive.com

October 29th
Gravesham Military Modelling Society Open Day.
The 2011 GMMS Open Day will be held on Saturday 29th October 2011 from 10 am until 4:00 pm.
The show will include club displays, trade stands, open competition, refreshments and a raffle.
The venue is: Chalk Parish Hall, Lower Higham Road, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent.
For more information, visit the GMMS website www.gmms.org.uk


1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Flakpanzer IV Ausf.G "Wirbelwind" Early Production
Smart Kit
unassembled model kit
maquette plastique a construire
this kit contains over 680 parts
for skilled modelers aged 14 and over
box contains model of one tank
036
DRAGON

GEE, IT'S A WIRBELWIND!

Andy King reviews Dragon's new 1:35 scale early-version Flakpanzer IV Ausf. G 'Wirbelwind'

The Flakpanzer IV 'Wirbelwind' (Whirlwind) was adapted from Panzer IV hulls that had been returned from the front for overhaul. Converted by Ostbau Werke in Silesia, the original turret was replaced with a nine-sided open-topped one mounting the 2cm four-barrelled Flak 38. Around 87 or more Wirbelwinds were produced but owing to the lack of punch and cyclic rate of the 2 cm Flak it was replaced with the 'Ostwind', again based on the Panzer IV chassis but mounting the single barrelled 3.7 cm gun in a six sided turret.

This kit is Dragon's second Wirbelwind. The first (kit no. 6540) was based on the later Panzer IV Ausf. H while this new kit has parts from the Ausf. G that enables you to build an early version. Over 680 parts are in the box including a fret of etch brass, a metal tow cable, clear styrene vision blocks, a small decal sheet and 'Magic Track' links moulded in two shades of grey for left and right, which make up most of the high part count.

The turret is a two-piece slide-moulded item with remarkably thin sides and is even packaged on its own clear plastic base. The weld beads are very finely replicated too.

The 2 cm Flak is from the Dragon Sd.Kfz. 7/1 half track and very nicely detailed although the flash suppressors on the ends of the barrels need the perforations drilled out or, better still, replaced with after market metal barrels.

The hull interior has a basic floor and engine firewall. For what you will be able to see from the top of the turret this is good enough, but if you wish to have the driver's and radio operator's hatches open you will have to source the interior from elsewhere or scratch build.

The running gear features vinyl rimmed return rollers and road wheels with armoured caps. The suspension is the simplified type and not the multi-part nightmare found on Dragon's earlier Panzer IV kits.

The instructions are busy and will need careful reading as you do have a few optional parts such as a welded or bolted front plate, rear plate parts, front lower hull, Notek or Bosch headlights etc. to choose from. Further research and reading is recommended, particularly regarding the zimmerit as this is not moulded on the plastic and some vehicles did have it.

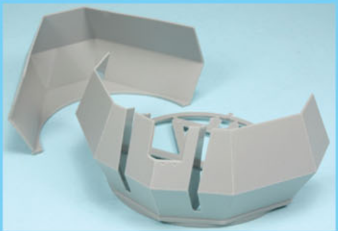
Colours and markings are limited to just three Wirbelwinds - one from Kampfgruppe Peiper, Ardennes 1944; the second from schwere Panzer Abteilung (s.Pz. Abt) 509 near Darmstadt 1945 and one from an unidentified unit, France 1944. Paint callouts are from Testor's Model Master and Gunze ranges.

This is another great kit from Dragon and, being based on the Ausf. G, the chassis gives you a bigger scope for finishing options. Highly Recommended. ■

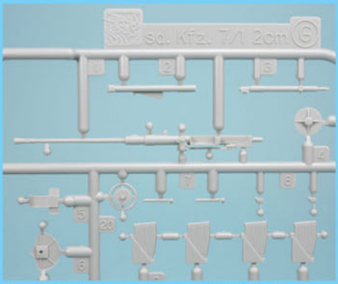
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample
www.hobbyco.net

DRAGON
Magic Track
DRAGON

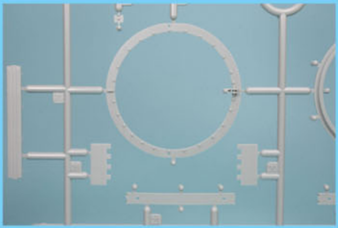
'Magic Track' links are moulded in two shades of grey for left and right.



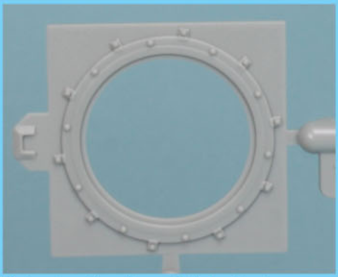
The turret is a two-piece slide-moulded item with remarkably thin sides.



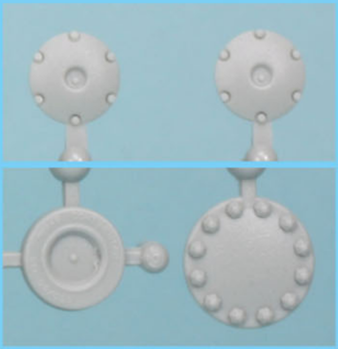
The 2 cm Flak is from the Dragon Sd.Kfz. 7/1 half track.



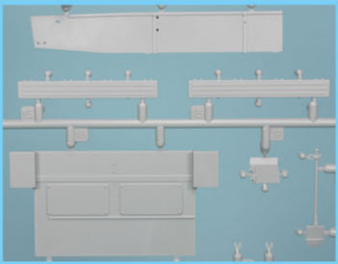
The turret base.



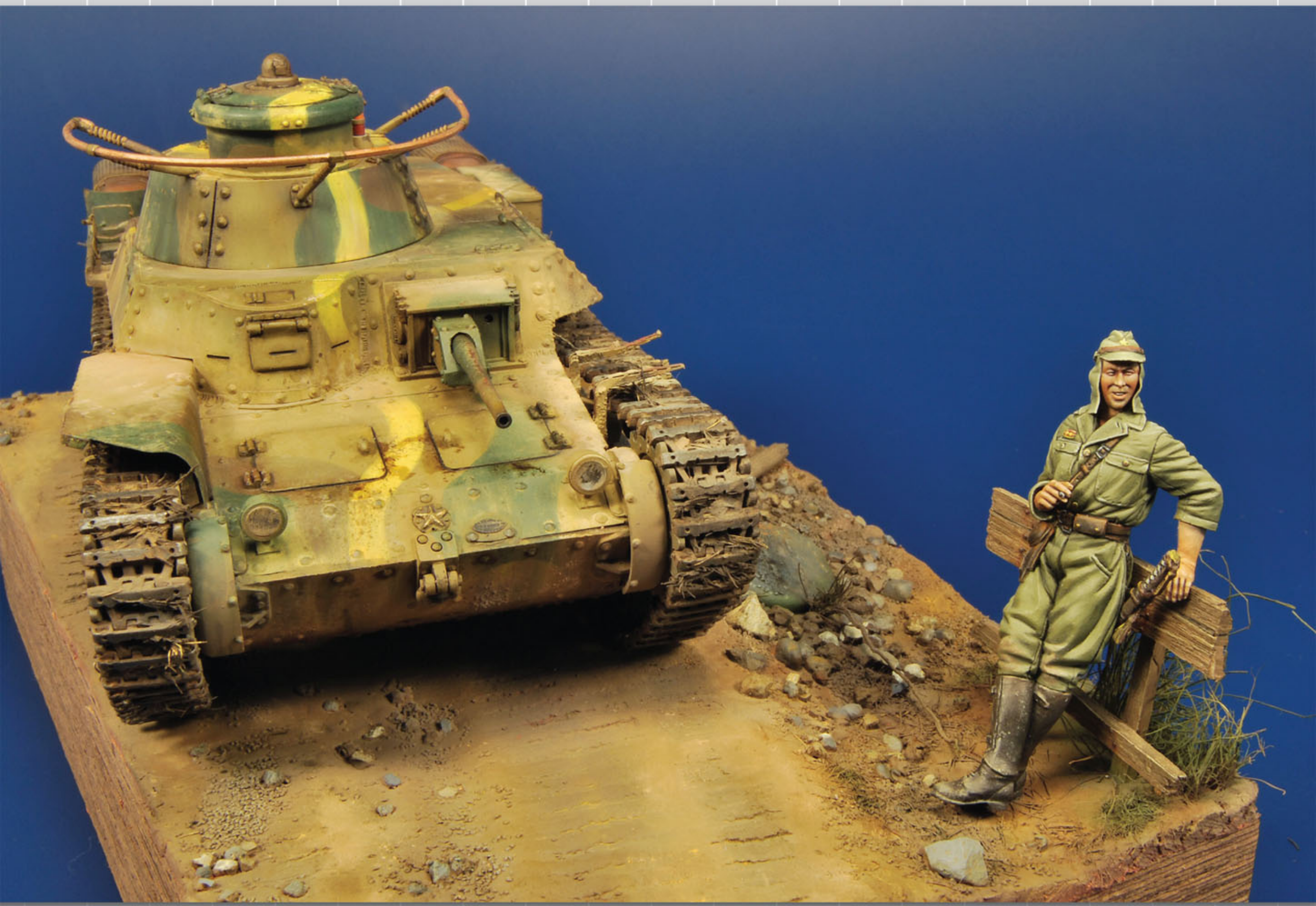
The turret race is another newly designed part.



Running gear is beautifully moulded.



The quality of moulding is up to Dragon's usual high standards.



COMMAND CONVERSION

Joaquin Garcia Gazquez describes the painting and weathering of his 1:35 scale Type 97 Shi-Ki Command Tank in detail.

By 1936 it became clear that the standard Japanese Type 99 medium tank had to be replaced by a more modern vehicle. A request was made for two different prototypes, one from Osaka Arsenal and the other from Mitsubishi.

Both prototypes were completed in 1937 and were subjected to comparative tests,. However it was not until 1938, with the outbreak of hostilities in China, that it was finally decided to put the Mitsubishi Medium Tank Type 97 CHI-HA prototype into production.

Production was taken over by Mitsubishi and by Hitachi to a lesser extent.

The tank had a crew of four - a driver and a gunner in the hull, and two in the turret. The hull was riveted and welded. Main armament was a 57 mm cannon with two Model 97 7.7 mm machine guns.

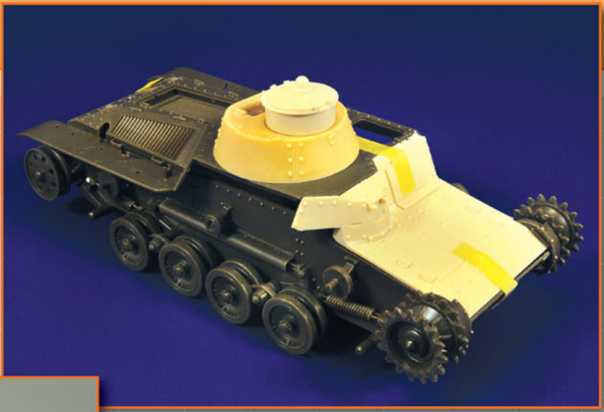
The tank was powered by an air-cooled 170 hp Mitsubishi diesel engine that provided a road top speed of 38 km/h.

As the war progressed, the chassis proved to be very reliable although a better-armed turret would have been helpful. There were a number of conversions to self-propelled guns, anti-aircraft gun platform etc.

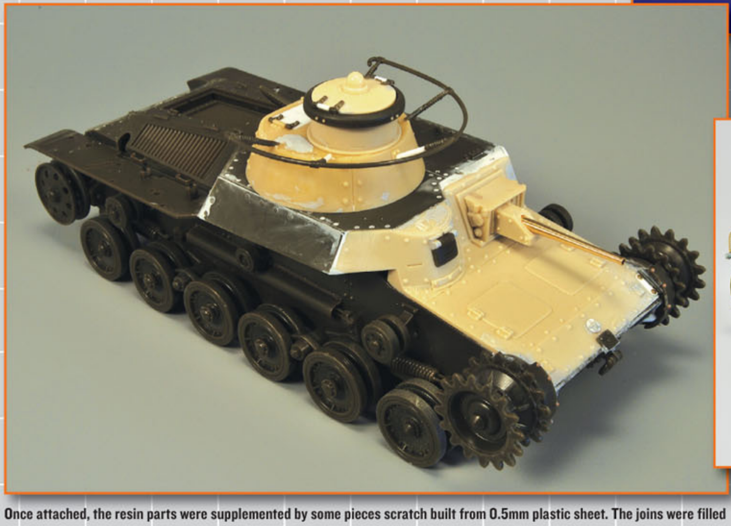
One of these variations was the Command Vehicle "Shi-Ki". Changes included an unarmed turret that was able to accommodate more powerful radio equipment and improved optics. Instead for the machine gun, a 37mm anti-tank gun was mounted in the hull to provide some attack and defence capability. The result is a very curious vehicle. ■

THE CONVERSION

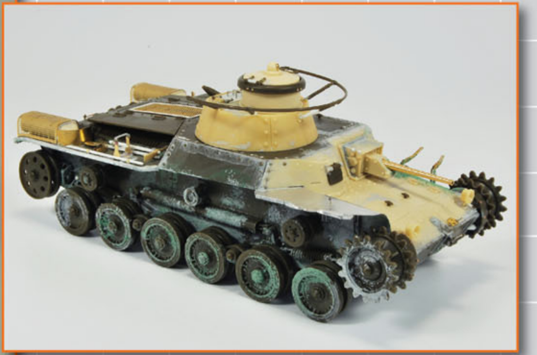
The Type 97 Shi-Ki Command Tank is a very unusual vehicle with an individual style. Fortunately, in the absence of a dedicated injected-moulded plastic kit, there is a 1:35 scale multimedia conversion set from Azimut. Although very simple, you will need to apply a little work to adapt the vintage Tamiya model. My good friend Carlos Bravo installed the resin Azimut parts on the venerable Tamiya Type 97 Chi-Ha kit, and also took care of other vehicle details and construction.



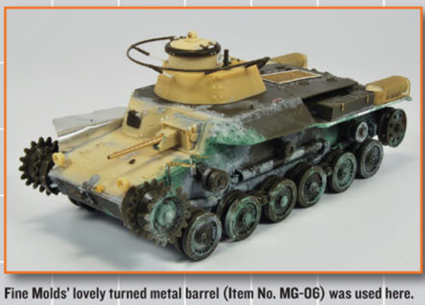
The conversion was test-fitted to check what additional work might be needed on the Azimut resin or Tamiya plastic parts.



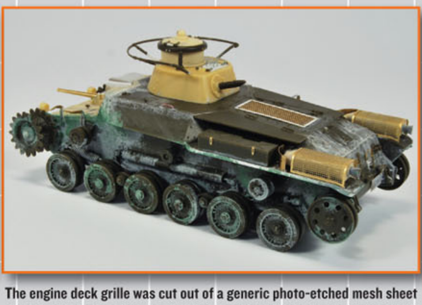
Once attached, the resin parts were supplemented by some pieces scratch built from 0.5mm plastic sheet. The joins were filled and thoroughly sanded to ensure there were no gaps on the finished model.



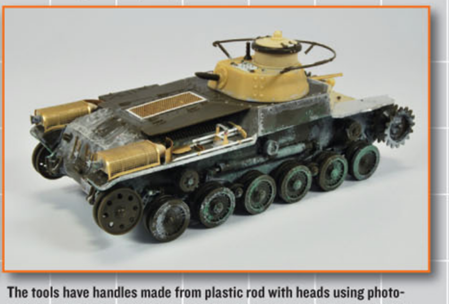
The raised domed rivets were carefully sliced from the discarded Tamiya panels and rearranged on the Azimut resin. The Azimut kit also comes with rivets to use in the event of loss due to excessive sanding. The front track guard is made from thin aluminium sheet, using the Tamiya original as a template.



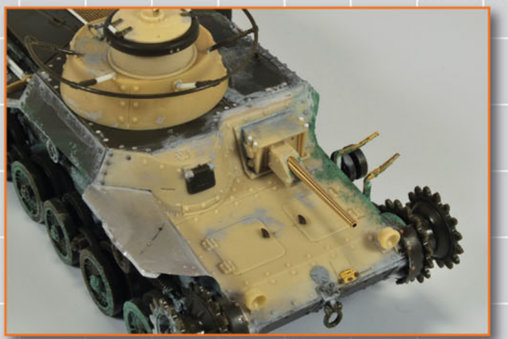
Fine Molds' lovely turned metal barrel (Item No. MG-06) was used here. Fine Molds also supplied the photo-etched detail set for the Type 97. This set includes parts for the fender brackets and exhaust guards.



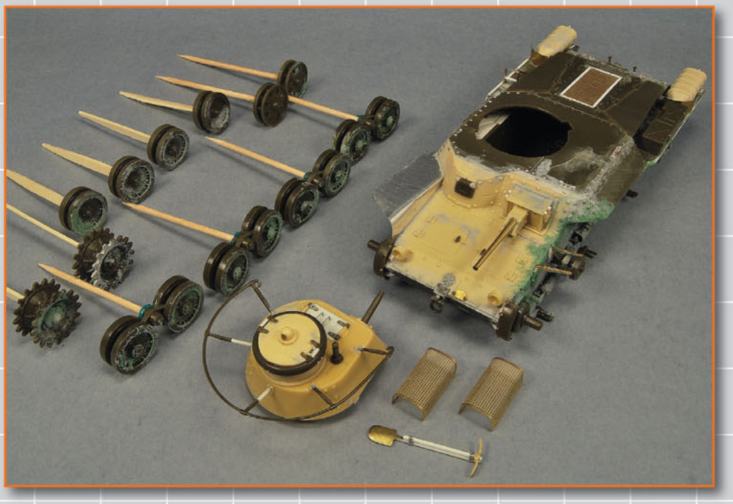
The engine deck grille was cut out of a generic photo-etched mesh sheet and bordered with a thin plastic frame. The mufflers are resin parts from Azimut, but the flattened exhaust pipes are Tamiya's plastic parts, which were easier to hollow out.



The tools have handles made from plastic rod with heads using photo-etched parts and spares from the ubiquitous scrap box. The jack stand is Fine Molds photo-etch. Hinge and rivet detail have been added to the turret hatch inside and out.



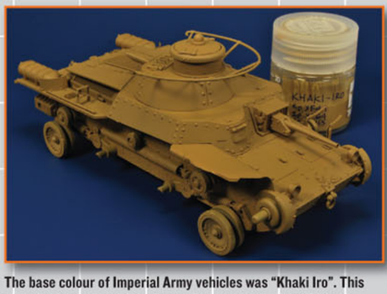
The Japanese Imperial Army star was obtained from the Tamiya kit by creating a Maskol mould, and producing a liquid putty copy This was lifted from the Maskol mould when the putty had set, and was glued to the resin forward hull. The hatch and mantlet have been detailed with plastic rivets.



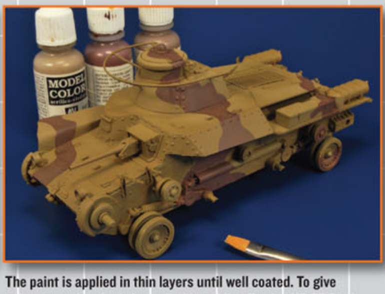
Once construction was complete, the various components were separated into sub-assemblies to make painting easier. Note that the road wheels have been attached to toothpick handles.

Tech Guide - Tamiya 1:35 scale Type 97 (Kit No. 35075) and Azimut 1:35 scale Type 97 Shi-Ki Command Tank Conversion

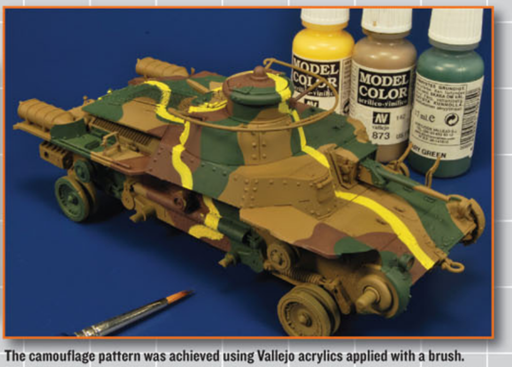
PAINTING



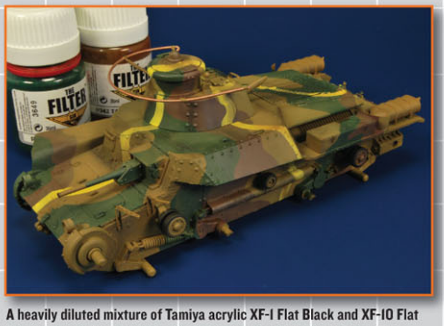
The base colour of Imperial Army vehicles was "Khaki Iro". This was obtained by mixing six parts Tamiya acrylic XF-49 Khaki, with two parts XF-64 Red Brown and one part Gunze Sangyo H413 RLM 04 Yellow



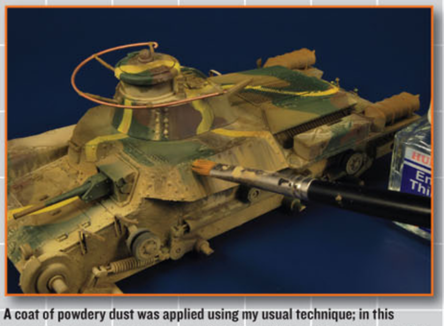
The paint is applied in thin layers until well coated. To give volume, a paler shade is applied by adding Tamiya XF-55 Deck Tan to the base colour.



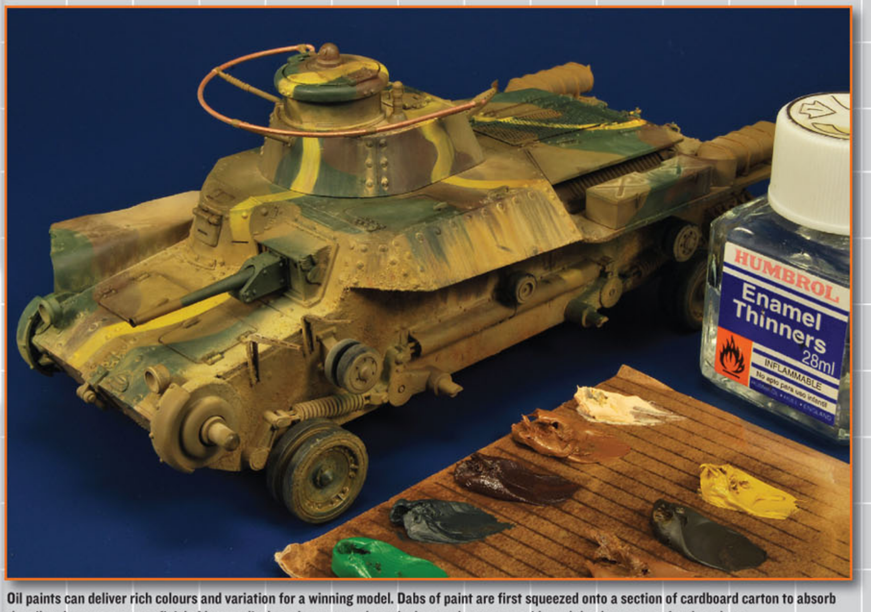
The camouflage pattern was achieved using Vallejo acrylics applied with a brush. For the brown umber colour I mixed Vallejo 941 Burnt Umber and 873 US Field Drab plus a little 985 Hull Red. The camouflage green is a blend of 975 Military Green and 873 US Field Drab. The disruptive band is painted using Vallejo 953 Fat Yellow.



A heavily diluted mixture of Tamiya acrylic XF-1 Flat Black and XF-10 Flat Brown was applied to shade the dark corners and vertical planes. This was also used to add dirt and general grime. Filters were also used to help integrate the different camouflage colours, in addition to providing some tonal variety. The filters used here were P244 Light Green for Green and P242 Tan for Tritonal Camouflage from Sin Industries.

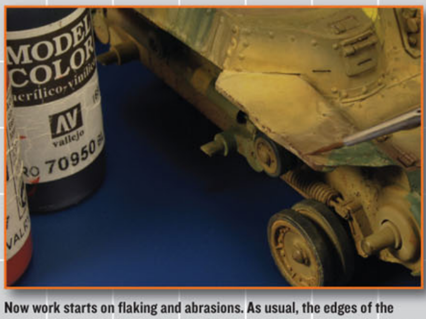


A coat of powdery dust was applied using my usual technique; in this case H93 Desert Yellow enamel applied thinly with an airbrush, and partly removed with a clean brush dipped in Humbrol enamel thinners.

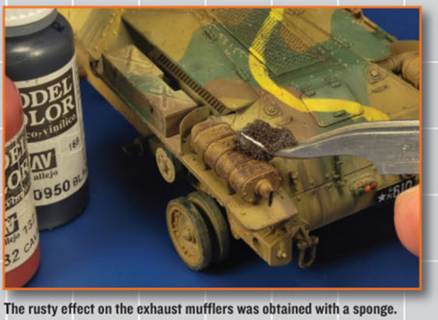


Oil paints can deliver rich colours and variation for a winning model. Dabs of paint are first squeezed onto a section of cardboard carton to absorb the oil and ensure a matte finish. I have split the colours to work on the base colour on one side and the dusty areas for the other:

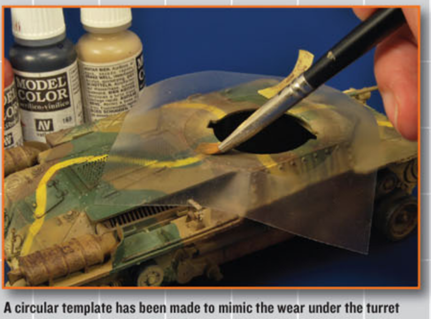
- Base Colour Variations: Grass Green 094, Grey Field 150 (Abt), Wash Brown 080 (Abt), Sienna Earth 90 (T), Naples Yellow Red 224 (R).
- Dusty Area Alterations: Reddish Yellow Ochre 92 (T), Mud Light 125 (Abt), Basic Earth 093 (Abt), Industrial Earth 090 (Abt), Light Yellow Ochre 86 (T), Warm Grey 718 (R), Earth Rosa Clear 98 (T).
- Common Tones, Colour Base - Dusty Areas: Land Natural Shade 74 (T), Ivory Black 82 (T), Sepia 416 (R). I



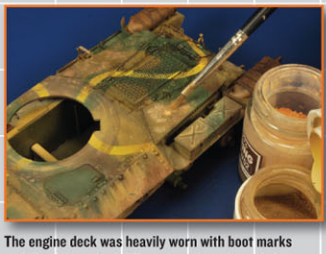
Now work starts on flaking and abrasions. As usual, the edges of the fenders are chipped. For the surface scratches, a khaki shade was made from a mix of Vallejo 319 Old Wood with a little 950 Black. For a deeper chipping tone, a mix of 950 Black and with 982 Cavalry Brown was used.



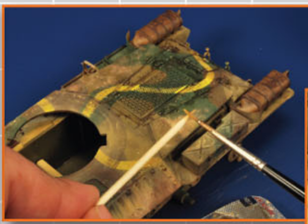
The rusty effect on the exhaust mufflers was obtained with a sponge. This technique is useful for large surfaces that have deteriorated noticeably.



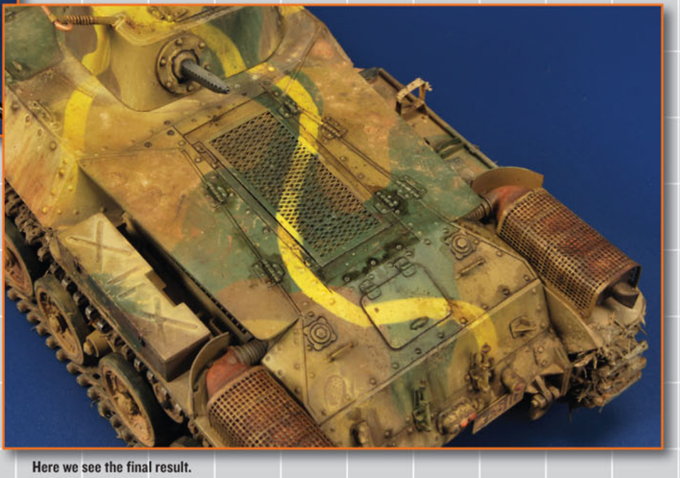
A circular template has been made to mimic the wear under the turret ring. The template is stuck to the surface, then circular movements that imitate the pattern of wear were made with a brush.



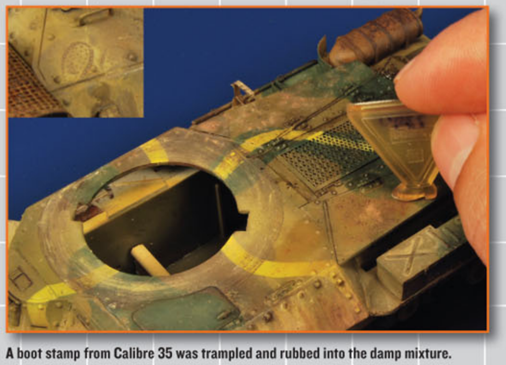
The engine deck was heavily worn with boot marks and dirt. I deposited different earthy coloured pigments as the first stage of this effect.



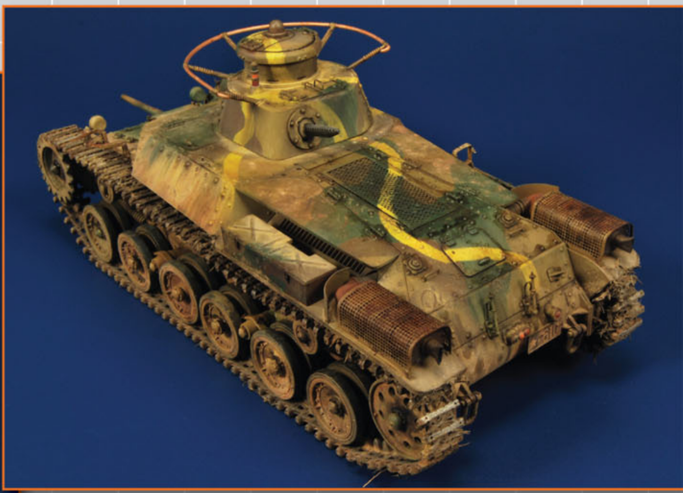
Enamel thinners were applied over the pigments using a toothpick and a paintbrush. This technique sealed the pigments without removing them.



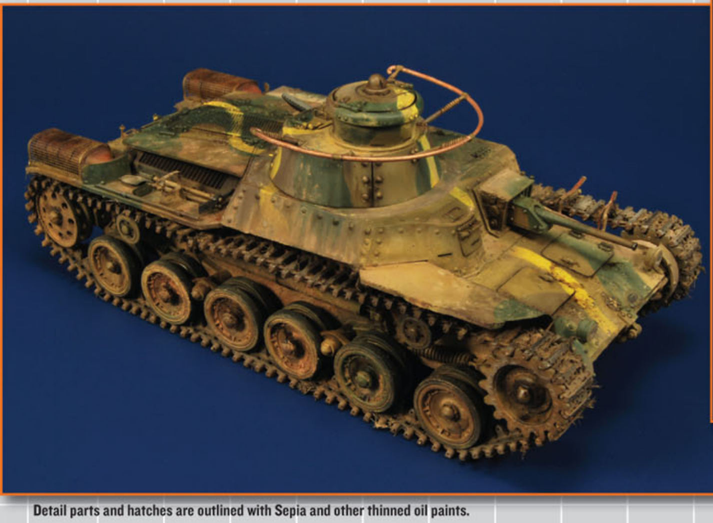
Here we see the final result.



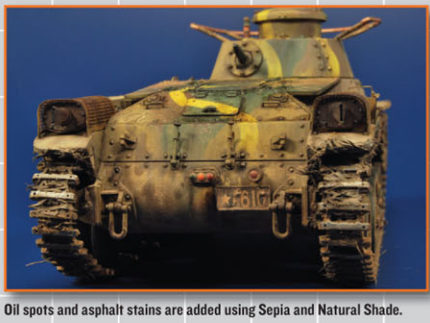
A boot stamp from Calibre 35 was trampled and rubbed into the damp mixture. This handy stamp may also be used to add footsteps in groundwork.



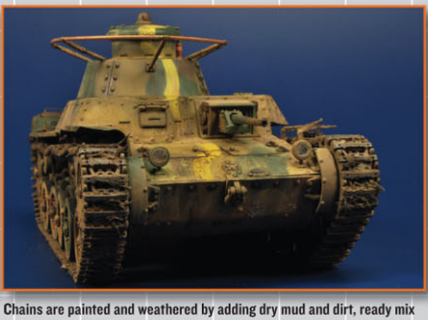
The exhaust pipe is oxidized by successive washes with Rust Brown transparent oil.



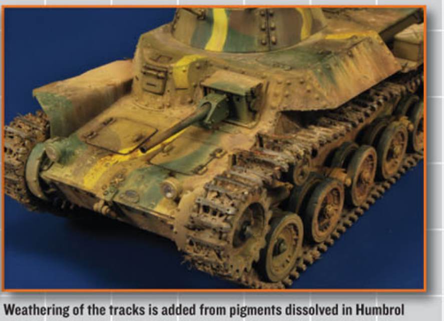
Detail parts and hatches are outlined with Sepia and other thinned oil paints.



Oil spots and asphalt stains are added using Sepia and Natural Shade.



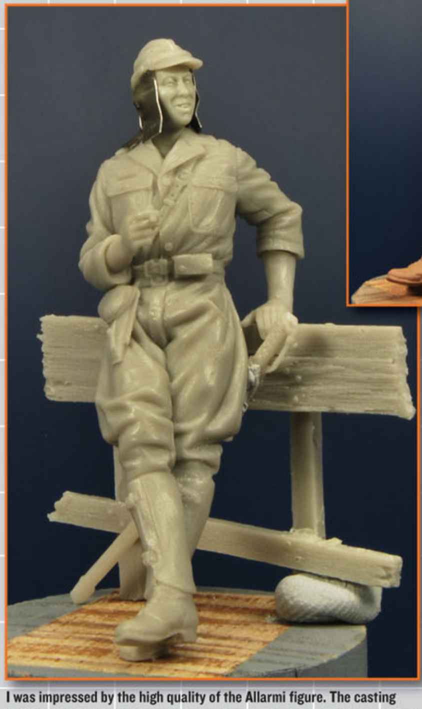
Chains are painted and weathered by adding dry mud and dirt, ready mix plaster, Mig pigments P028 Europe Dust and P232 Dark Mud, and even dried asparagus leaves with a little water.



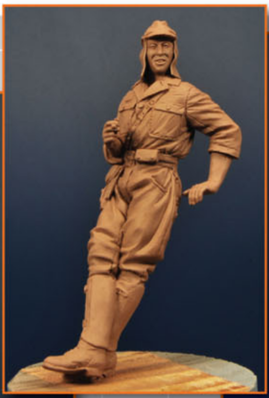
Weathering of the tracks is added from pigments dissolved in Humbrol Thinners. Notice how the effects of dry soil and mud is greater on the side with no fenders.

Tech Guide - Tamiya 1:35 scale Type 97 (Kit No. 35075) and Azimut 1:35 scale Type 97 Shi-Ki Command Tank Conversion

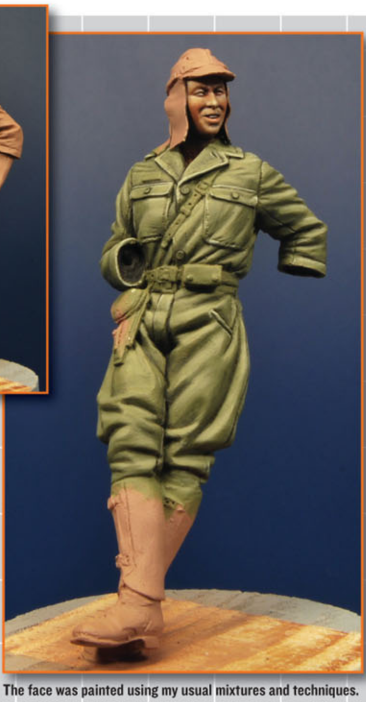
FIGURE



I was impressed by the high quality of the Allarmi figure. The casting had a little flash but the uniform and general figure is very well sculpted and cast. Unfortunately, the face was not to the same high standard. The face was very flat and the eyes looked like eggs, and were without any expression. The head was replaced with an item from Hornet, coupling the original cap and making the fabric flap using thin metal and a little A + B putty.

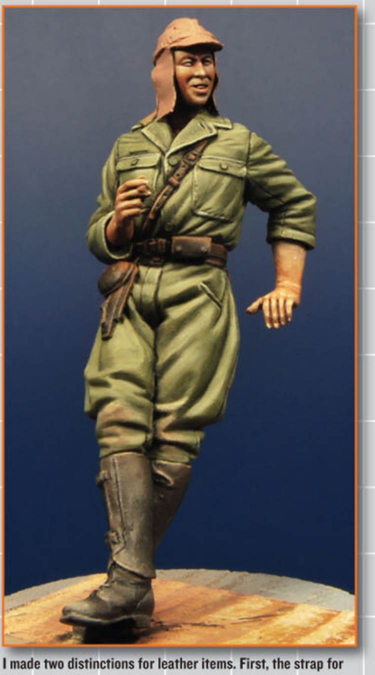


Tamiya XF-15 Flat Flesh was mixed with a little XF-8 Dark Blue and applied with an airbrush, making a perfect base for the facial tones.



The face was painted using my usual mixtures and techniques. For the green Japanese uniform, I relied on the book "Japanese Military Uniforms 1930-1945" Publishing Dai Nippon Kaiga. This gives us a magnificent collection of exquisitely drawn prints by Ritta Nakanishi. After several attempts, I eventually settled on a blend of Vallejo Acrylics 328 Japanese Tank Crew, with some 923 Light Flesh and a little 920 German Uniform as a base colour.

- Highlights: Base + CAP 332 Japanese Tank Crew highlights at the end by adding 923 Light Flesh to intensify the shades on the upper parts of the figure.
- Shadows: Base + 889 US Olive Drab + 896 Extra Dark Green. For the deepest shadows I added 950 Black.



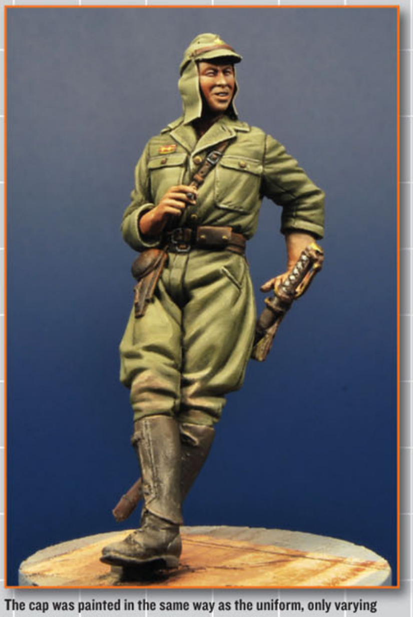
I made two distinctions for leather items. First, the strap for the holster and on the other hand the boots and their gaiters. As a general rule I like to paint warm colours mixing leather with glossy black, glossy tones representing the leather to perfection:

Harness and holster:

- Base: 861 Black + 956 Bright Orange
- Lights: Previous + 956 Orange
- Shadows: Base + 861 Gloss Black.

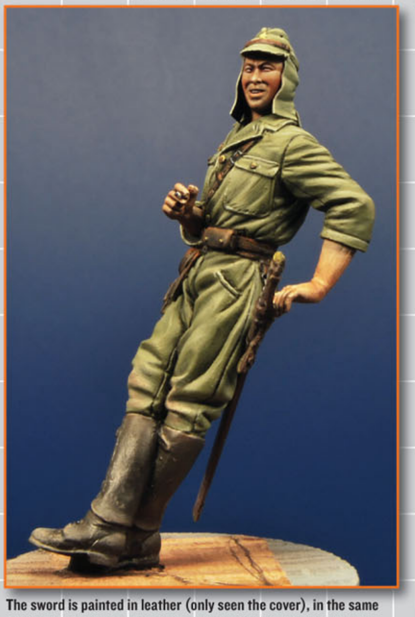
Boots:

- Base: 861 Gloss Black + 871 Leather Dark Brown.
- Lights: Previous + Sunny Skintone 845.
- Shadows: Base + 861 Gloss Black.

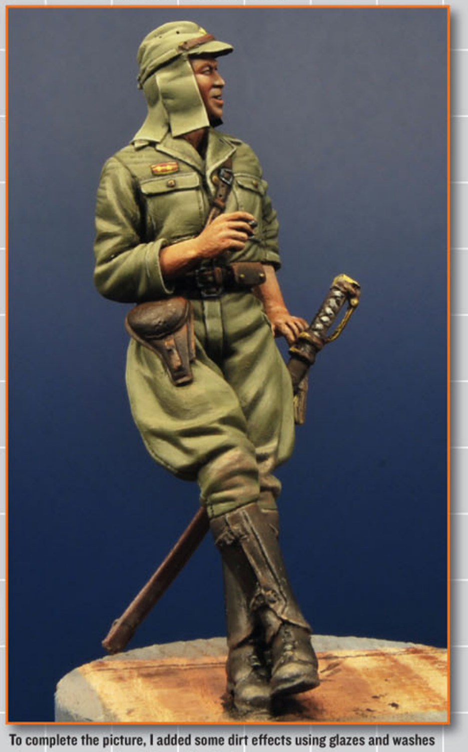


The cap was painted in the same way as the uniform, only varying the shades to give visual richness to the figure:

- Base: 328 Japanese Tank Crew + 886 Green Grey + 923 Japanese Uniform.
- First Previous + Meat Golden Lights 845.
- Last Lights: Previous + 928 Sunny Skintone.
- First Shadows: Base + 979 German Dark Green+ 965 Green Prussian Blue.
- Last Shadows: Previous + 950 Black.



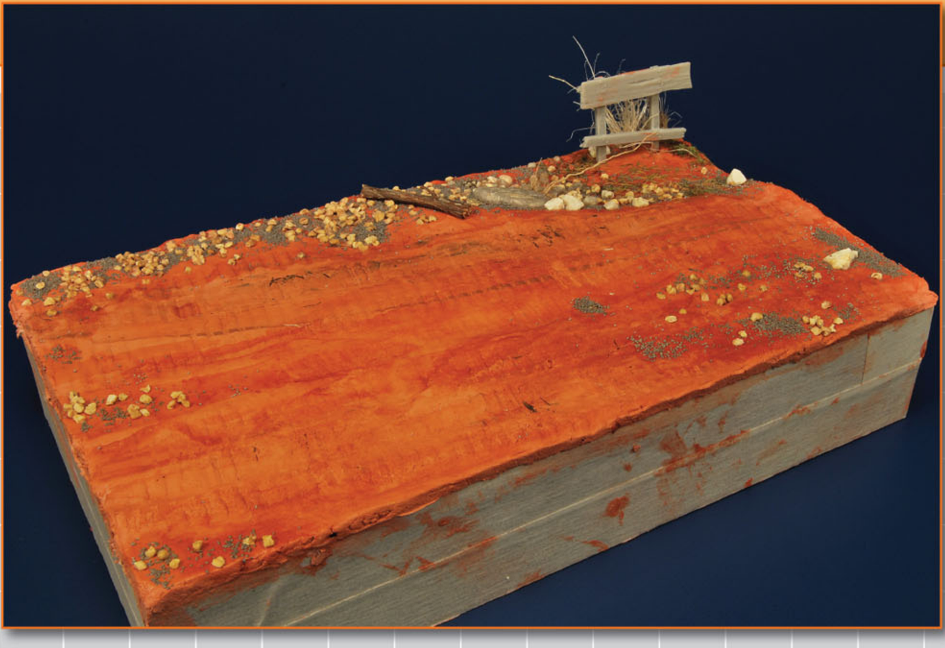
The sword is painted in leather (only seen the cover), in the same way as the boots and straps, varying only in the proportions. The handle and details are painted with different colours according to the drawings that are in the book above.

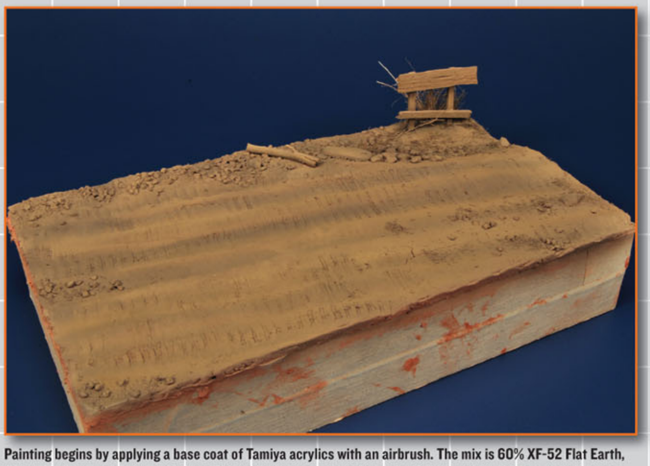


To complete the picture, I added some dirt effects using glazes and washes plus very controlled acrylic earthy shades.

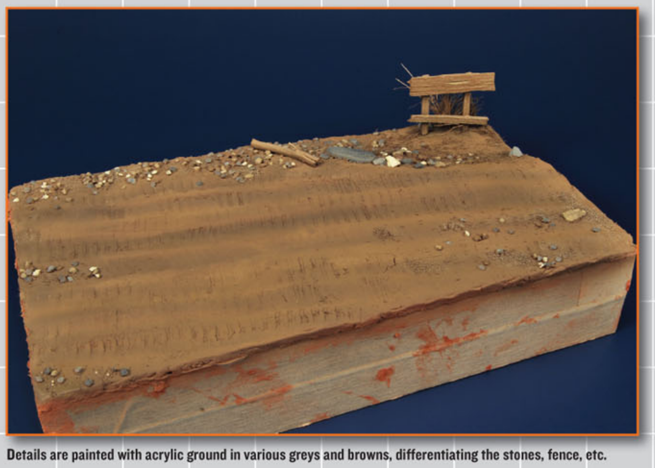
THE BASE

The terrain of the base is very simple. Its main purpose is just to display the model. The groundwork was modelled with putty and textured with an old toothbrush. Small stones of different sizes and shapes were added too. The main objective is that the ground should look natural. The small wooden fence was included with the figure set.

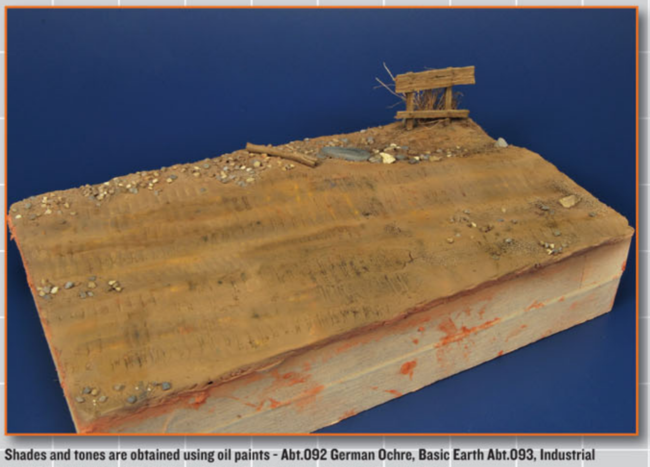




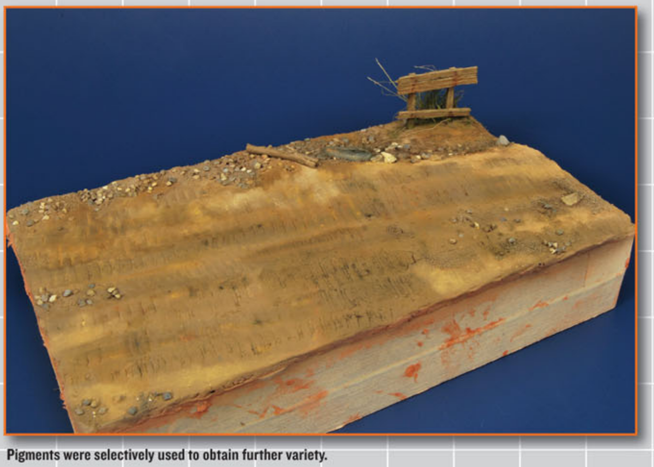
Painting begins by applying a base coat of Tamiya acrylics with an airbrush. The mix is 60% XF-52 Flat Earth, 20% XF-8 Blue and 20% XF-10 Matt Brown. Variations are applied using XF-52 and XF-59 Desert Yellow, and adding shading of XF-8 Flat Blue and XF-10 Flat Brown.



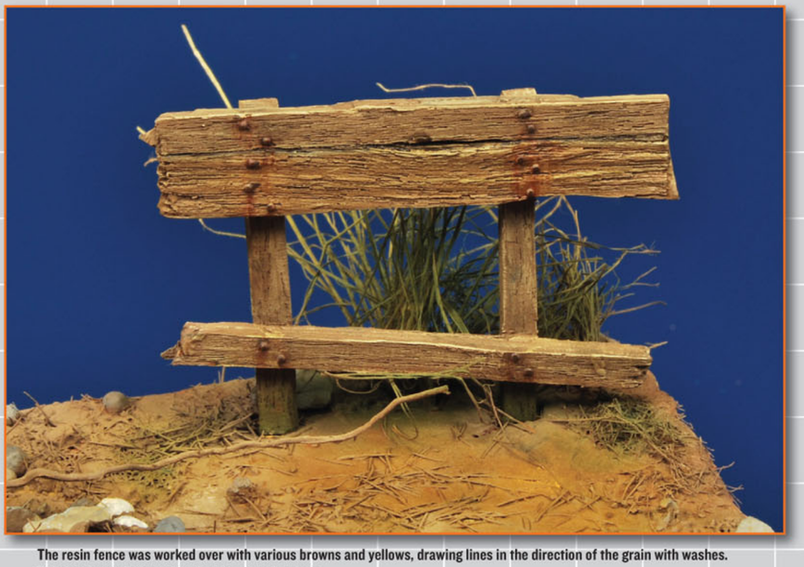
Details are painted with acrylic ground in various greys and browns, differentiating the stones, fence, etc.



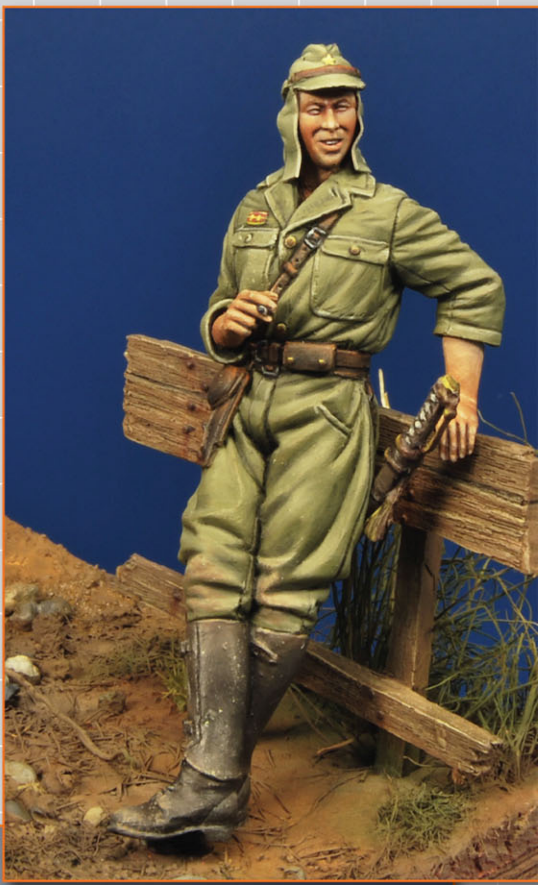
Shades and tones are obtained using oil paints - Abt.092 German Ochre, Basic Earth Abt.093, Industrial Abt.090 Earth, Faded Abt.030 Navy Blue, Red Ochre and Natural Shadow Earth.



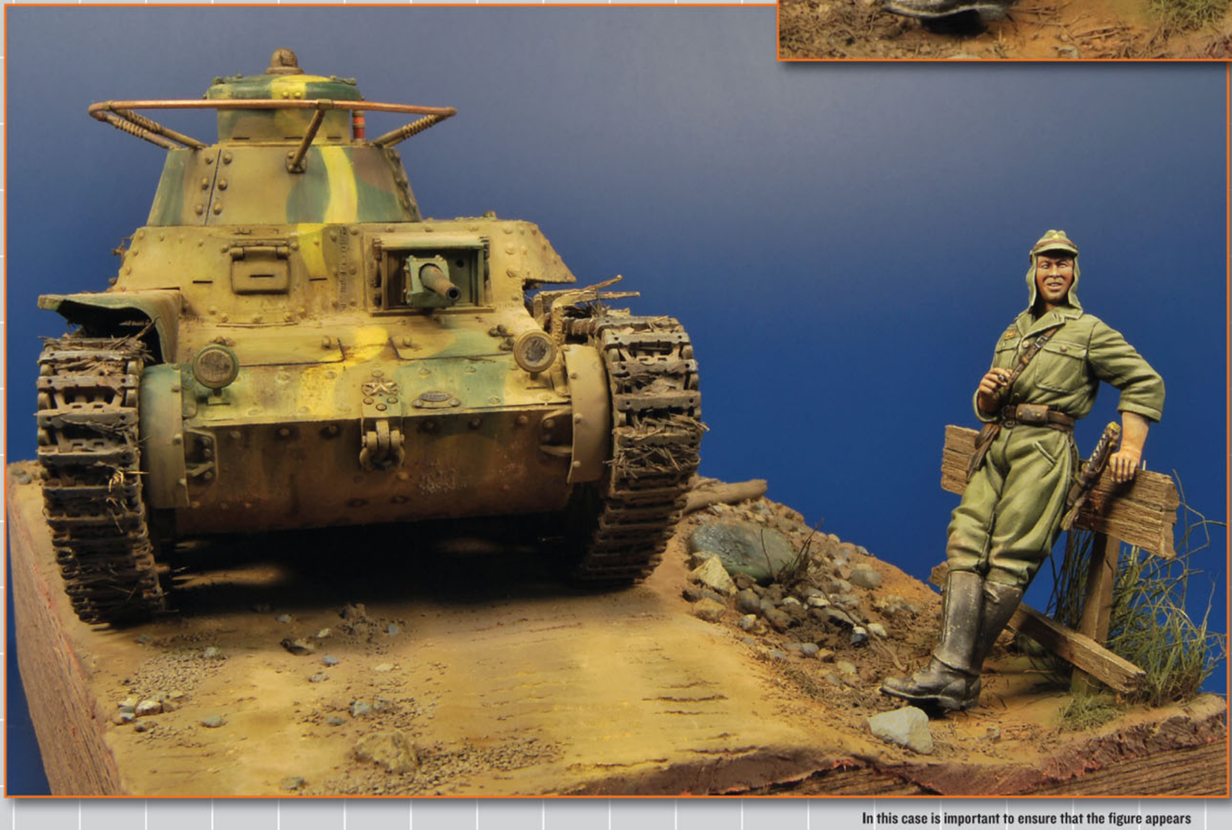
Pigments were selectively used to obtain further variety.



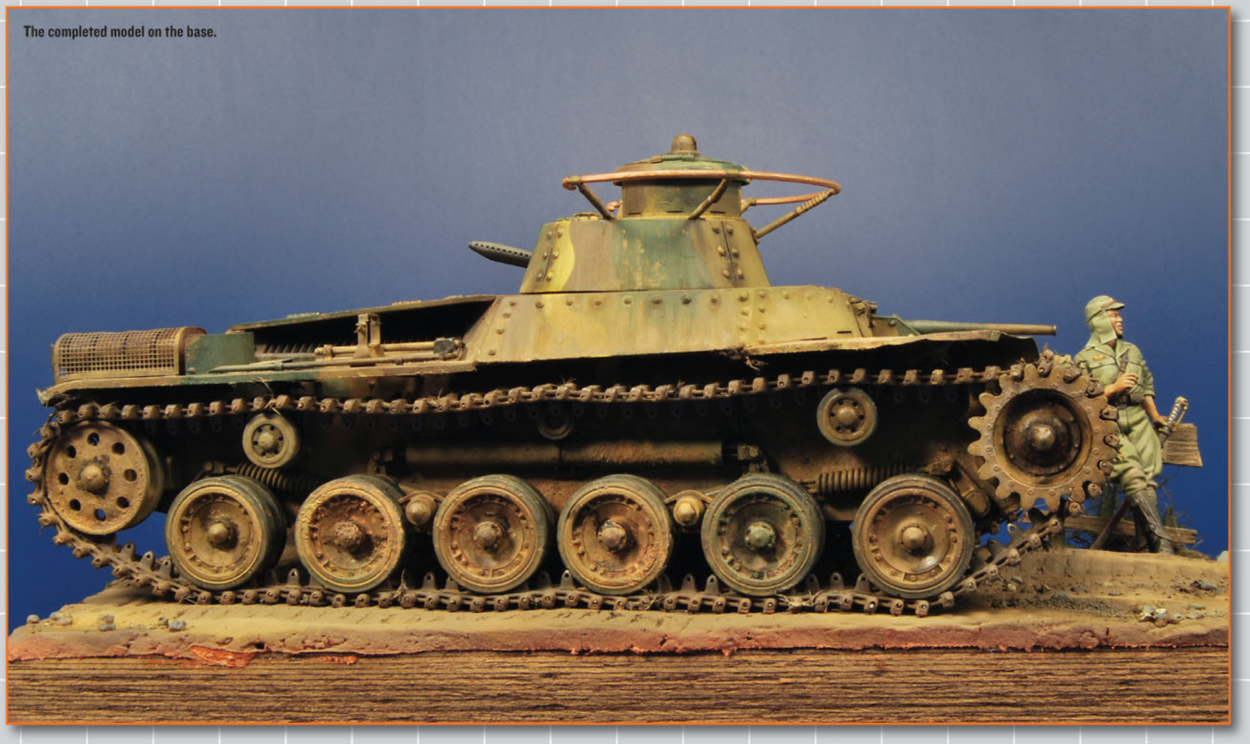
The resin fence was worked over with various browns and yellows, drawing lines in the direction of the grain with washes. This is a beautifully sculpted and cast resin piece.



The fence and the figure have both been placed here.

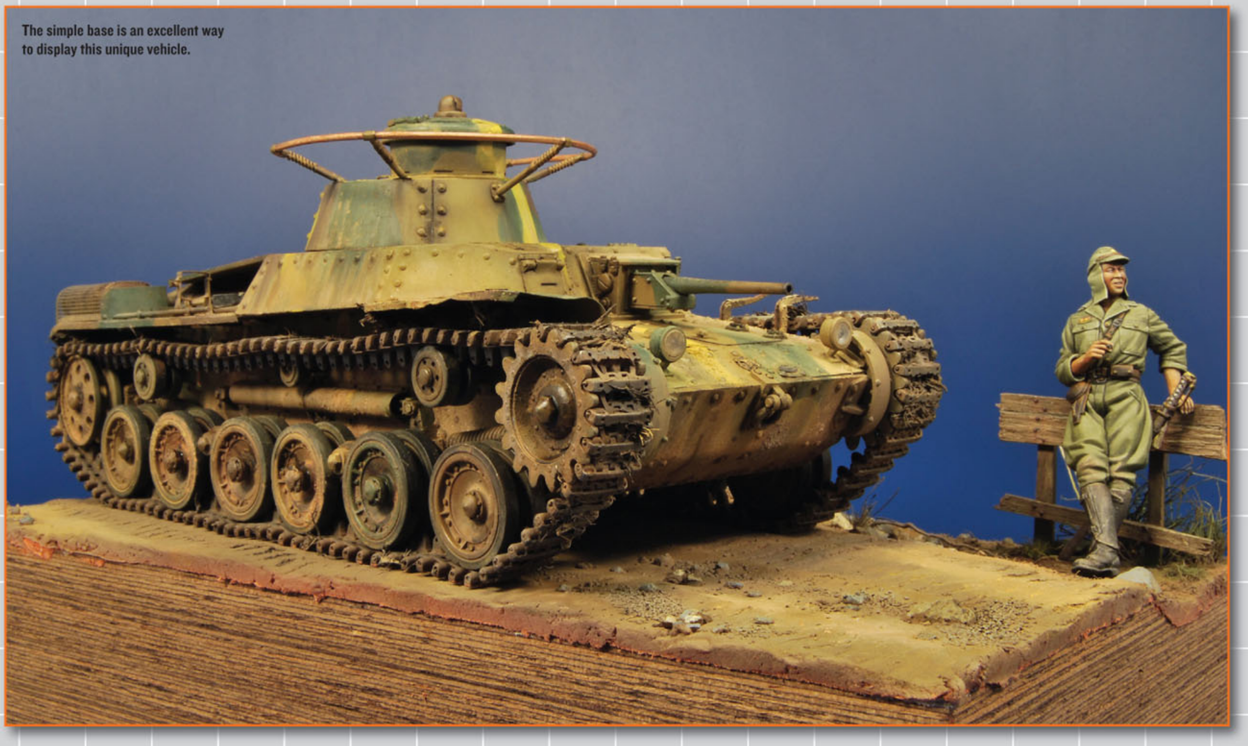


In this case is important to ensure that the figure appears to be relaxed and is actually resting against the fence.



The completed model on the base.

> “I was impressed by the high quality of the Allarmi figure. The casting had a little flash but the uniform and general figure is very well sculpted and cast...”



The simple base is an excellent way to display this unique vehicle.

SPECIAL EDITION
SCALE 1:35
T-80 SOVIET LIGHT TANK
MiniArt
35117

MINIART

1:35 SCALE SPECIAL EDITION T-80 SOVIET LIGHT TANK

KIT NO. 35117

During WWII, the Soviets learned the hard way that tanks with a two-man crew are not very effective. The Commander had to both service the gun and command the tank. As a result, the Soviets began work on a two-man turret version of the T-70M. Work began in October 1942 on a new light tank design, Article 080. This eventually became the T-80. After many problems and setbacks, production began in April 1943. The T-80 was probably the best of the Soviet Light Tanks. Unfortunately, production was cancelled in late 1943 with a total production of only 77 tanks. Most of these were used as command vehicles for units equipped with Su-76 SP guns.

Following on the heels of their T-70 kits, MiniArt has released a "Special Edition" 1:35 scale kit of the T-80 Light Tank.

The kit comes in the usual sturdy box with simple artwork. On opening the box we find nine sprues containing 375 parts, one clear sprue, one etched brass fret and a four page instruction manual.

The parts are all crisply moulded and flash free. Any mould lines that are present are very fine and will be easy to remove. The hull is of the conventional tub type, with no flash or ejector pin marks present. There are parts for the earlier T-70 so in theory you could build either version from this kit.

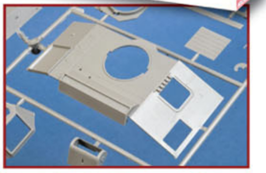
The tracks are the individual link type and have no ejector pin marks or flash. The instruction manual is simple and easy to follow. There is no painting guide or decals provided, and this is where the box art comes in handy.

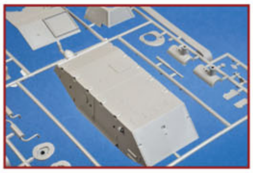
This kit is quite well detailed and accurate. It represents good value and will easily build up to be a very nice representation of a little known but important Soviet Light Tank.

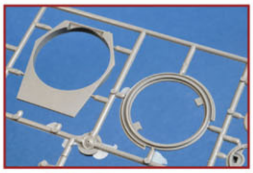
Highly Recommended.

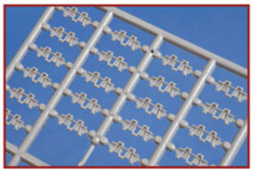
Available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Stuart Ransley









DRAGON

1:35 SCALE PANZERJAGER I 4.7CM PAK(T) EARLY PRODUCTION

KIT NO; 6258

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Panzerjäger I 4.7cm PaK(t) Early Production
Smart Kit
DRAGON

The Panzerjager I was a self-propelled anti-tank gun based on the Panzer IB chassis and in 1940 the first tank destroyer to enter service. Weighing in at 6 tons and with a crew of three, it mounted a Czech built 4.7 cm L/43 PaK (Panzerabwehr Kanone). The Panzerjager I was used on all fronts up until late 1943 when it was eventually phased out.

Dragon's kit mainly comprises parts from their earlier boxing of the Panzerjager (kit no.6230) as well as the Panzer I tank with a new sprue for the earlier five sided gun shield so a fair few parts are marked as not for use.

The hull is a one-piece item and includes a very nicely detailed interior. The gun shield is slide moulded and impressively thin and also features great detail on the inside although the radio will require some cabling.

The 4.7 cm gun itself features some fine detailing and the barrel is moulded in one piece with a separate muzzle.

The on-vehicle equipment such as the shovel, bolt cutters etc do not feature any tool clamps so these will need to be acquired from elsewhere or made from scratch. No crew figures are included either but there is a sprue of generic infantry equipment that can be used as stowage.

Also in the box is a sheet of photo-etched brass for the exhaust mesh, engine grill and stowage basket on the rear deck plus etch brass rings for the road wheels. Two sprues of clear styrene are provided for the vision blocks and headlights.

The track links are very small and very delicate individual 'Magic Tracks', beautifully moulded with only a small sprue attachment point to clean off.

A small decal sheet printed by Cartograf is also provided.

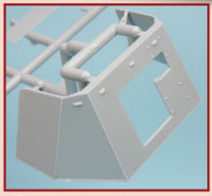
Camouflage options are mainly overall grey schemes for the French and Russian campaigns although for a bit of variety you have one vehicle in a grey and brown camouflage and another in a winter whitewash.

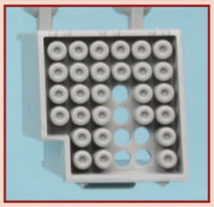
This is a lovely little kit and being the first of its kind an important addition to any collection of tank destroyers.

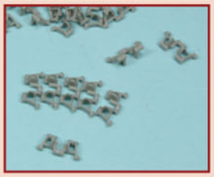
Highly Recommended.

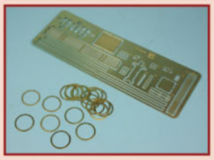
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Andy King









enamel WASH DARK BROWN For green vehicles
AK interactive AK 045
AK 024
AK interactive DARK STREAKING GRIME enamel color For Dark Green vehicles
enamel WASH LIGHT RUST For green vehicles
AK interactive AK 046

AK INTERACTIVE

WEATHERING SET FOR GREEN VEHICLES

ITEM NO. AK 064

AK 064
AK interactive
WEATHERING SET for green vehicles
www.ak-interactive.com
35ml x 3 jars

One of the latest additions to the ever expanding weathering industry is a company called AK Interactive. We have received their Weathering Set for Green Vehicles. This comprises three enamel washes:

- **AK 045 - DARK BROWN FOR GREEN**
- **AK 046 - LIGHT RUST WASH**
- **AK-024 – DARK STREAKING GRIME**

The three screw-capped plastic bottles are tightly sealed – always important with these thin enamel mixes – and contained in a resealable vacform package.

Testing the washes suggests that they will flow well, and the three shades are certainly appropriate and versatile as a package.

This is a professional looking package. We will test these out on a future modelling project and let you know how they go in the near future.

Recommended.

Available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Brett Green

MIG PRODUCTIONS

OCHRE RUST PIGMENT. ITEM NO. P042
KAKY RUSSIAN FADED PIGMENT. ITEM NO. P043
BURNT STEEL BLUE. ITEM NO. P044
SIN INDUSTRIES WARM GREY FILTER FOR PANZER GREY. P418
SIN INDUSTRIES ORANGE FILTER FOR DESERT CAMOUFLAGE. P419

Mig Productions has expanded their pigments range with three new shades – Ochre Rust Pigment; Kaky (presumably Khaki) Russian Faded and Burnt Steel Blue. Armour modellers will welcome these three versatile shades.

Mig Pigments may be mixed with water, enamel thinners or applied with a soft brush straight from the jar for a dusty effect.

Sin Industries is another arm of the Mig Productions empire. The filter range provides a very thin tint over base colours and multi-shade camouflage finishes. This delivers a subtler impact than the usual enamel wash, and is usually applied over an entire vehicle. The two new filters are Warm Grey for Panzer Grey vehicles, and Orange for Desert camouflaged vehicles. There is no shortage of Panzer Grey subjects, and the desert filter will be handy for vehicles from conflicts throughout the 20th and 21st Centuries.

All five of these new weathering products will be useful additions to the modeller's finishing armoury.

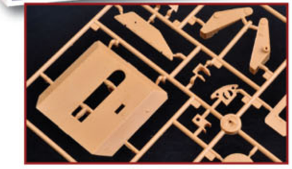
Recommended.

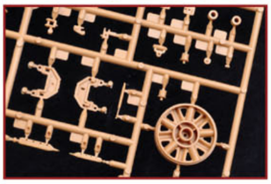
Available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

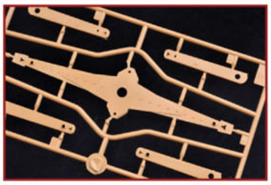
Brett Green

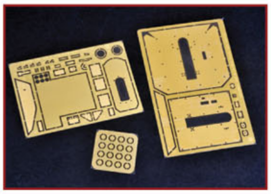
THE FILTER
MIG
Ochre Rust P042
Kaky Russian Faded P043
Burnt Steel Blue P044
PIGMENTS color for modelling
www.migproductions.com

German 8.8cm Panzerjägerkanone PAK43









TRUMPETER

1:35 SCALE GERMAN 8.8CM PANZERJAGERKANONE PAK 43
KIT NO. 02308

After a long period without new 1:35 scale artillery kits, we have seen a real boom in this area over the past few years. One of the latest releases is Trumpeter's 1:35 scale German 8.8cm Panzerjagerkanone PaK 43.

The PaK 43 was a dedicated anti-tank gun based on the Great 42, but mounted on a new cruciform mount and a sharply angled armoured shield. It was essentially the same gun used in the Tiger II, Nashorn and Jagdpanther. Combining its very low profile and hard punch, the PaK 43 was a fearsome weapon capable of destroying any contemporary tank at long range.

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale 8.8cm PaK 43 comprises 266 parts in tan coloured plastic, three photo-etched frets, a length of brass tube, a turned metal barrel and eight vinyl tyres.

The cruciform base may be assembled in combat or transport modes; and the arms may be trapped without cement, permitting re-posing after the model has been built.

The gun is very well detailed and it should be able to elevate and depress if carefully assembled. The photo-etched gun shield and ammo box are a real treat. They will look great with their crisp detail and scale thinness. If you don't like working with photo-etch, however, a plastic version is also supplied.

A two-part plastic barrel split down the centerline is included in the box, but I cannot think of a single reason not to use the gorgeous turned metal barrel provided instead.

The front and rear limbers are once again nicely detailed. Separate vinyl tyres are supplied for the pressed wheels.

Despite the relatively high parts count, this kit looks fairly straightforward to build and offers many interesting diorama possibilities.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au

Brett Green

M1132 Stryker ESV
Engineer Squad Vehicle w/LWMR-Mine Roller/SOB
1/35 SCALE

TRUMPETER

1:35 SCALE M1132 STRYKER ESV (ENGINEER SQUAD VEHICLE) W/SMP/ AMP SURFACE MINE PLOW • ITEM NO 01575

Over the short period of a couple of years, Trumpeter has released eight variants of the Stryker vehicle. The first of these had some accuracy problems, but future releases fixed these errors. All the kits share a common set of sprues plus the specialty parts of the particular variant depicted.

This kit follows the same formula with the main structure. The large mine plow and and lane marking devices on the rear are new as are a few extra bits and pieces such as the stowage boxes etc.

The front mine plow is a kit in its self with 279 parts to assemble, and the end result looks to be quite an impressive thing. The lane marking devices on the rear of the vehicle comprises 38 parts and with some careful painting will also look great.

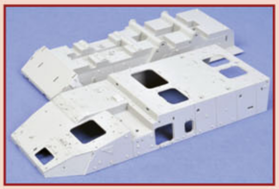
This is a good kit with a lot of parts, 923 to be exact, and all the usual extras you get from Trumpeter like water and soft drink boxes, strapping etc. I just wish they would add a crew for this kit, hint hint!

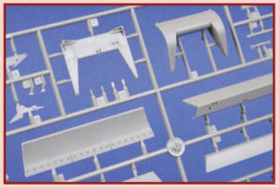
This is another great release of an impressive looking vehicle. At 34cm in length, it is pretty big too, and it will be interesting to see what other variants they release in the future. Well done to the people at Trumpeter.

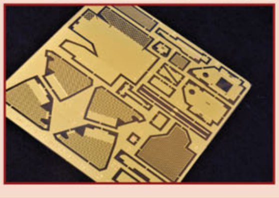
Highly Recommended.

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au

Brett Green

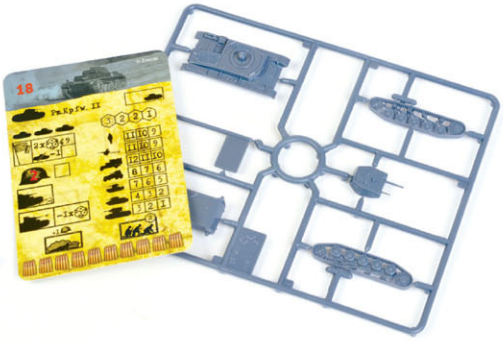


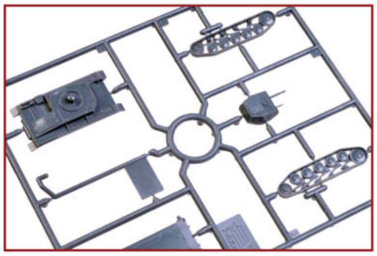


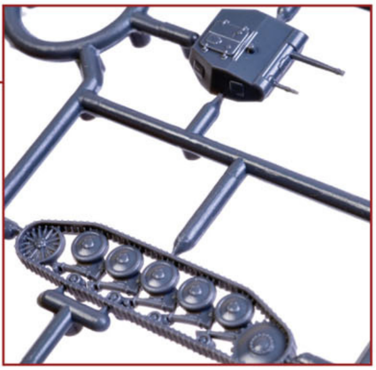


Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76

ZVEZDA
1/100
GERMAN LIGHT TANK
Pz.Kpfw. II







ZVEZDA

1:100 SCALE GERMAN LIGHT TANK PZ.KPFW.II • ITEM NO. 6102

When I first saw the tiny, by modern standards at least, box for this I realised it must be a small scale. I then saw it was 1:100, which struck me as an odd scale for AFV kits. I am not a wargamer, and until looking into this kit I did not realise that 1:100 is in fact a wargames scale for a gaming system by Zvezda (and may be for other brands too, I don't know however).

It seems that Zvezda has produced AFV and aircraft kits plus figures in this scale for a game series called Art Of Tactic "Operation Barbarossa 1941". It includes detailed rules, game boards, accessories and different scenarios etc, and the series is being expanded. More information on this can be found at www.art-of-tactic.com or www.zvezda.org.ru . I took a look at the website, but as a non-wargamer I am not really in a position to comment on the game's merits or otherwise.

Having established the intention behind the kit it is time to look at the package and contents. As mentioned, the kit comes in a commendably small end-opening box with attractive box art on one side and details of contents and an image of the assembled kit on the rear. Inside are instructions and general notes on the Art of Tactic Game in Russian, English and German. There is a CAD drawing showing how the five parts clip together to make up the vehicle by clipping together. There is also a two-sided game card that uses symbols to convey wargames information to the player concerning the Pz.Kpfw.II. From what I can tell this covers firepower, ammunition load, mobility, vulnerability to various weapons and other information pertinent to gaming.

The kit parts come on one sprue and despite the simplicity of the kit are crisply moulded with quite good levels of detail. They capture the look of the subject well. There is also a sort of non-scale plastic flag on a pole with a hooked end. This appears designed to clip into hole under the rear underside of the tank. I assume that this flag can carry a suitable tactical symbol identifying a single model tank as representing a unit of some description, such as a tank company for instance. The plastic seems to be a little more flexible and softer than normal kit styrene, but it is not like the polythene figures used in the old Airfix figure sets. No doubt this conveys some resilience to frequent handling.

It is not my intention to review the Art of Tactic game, as my focus is on the kit. This seems to be a nicely produced wargaming model that is ideally suited to its intended purpose. Despite it's simplicity it could be used as a nice enough 1:100-scale model in its own right, although no decals are provided. Recommended.

Thanks to Zvezda for the review sample www.zvezda.org.ru

Mark Davies

TOLOLOKO

1:72 SCALE STAR 266 • ITEM NO. TOL-001

The Star 266 is one of the most recognizable Polish lorries. Currently, the Polish army uses about 5,000 266 and 266M trucks. Polish model makers, unlike those from the Czech Republic, saw no potential in the production of models of domestic vehicles, despite significant interest from the modelling community. The first model in 1:72 was designed in February 2011 by the Tololoko company.

The model is packed in a hard cardboard box and protected by bubblewrap. Inside we find 34 resin parts - plastic bag with small parts, individually packaged cargo, bed frame and a small photo-etched fret. There are no instructions nor decals. The company announced the imminent release of the decals, however for the parts assembly we need to turn our attention to the Internet. With the help of many pictures of the truck online there should be no problem with the build. Casting is very good with no noticeable seams or air bubbles. Only cosmetic clean-up is required. This procedure takes takes just a few minutes using the craft knife. Photos show the parts after the clean up process.

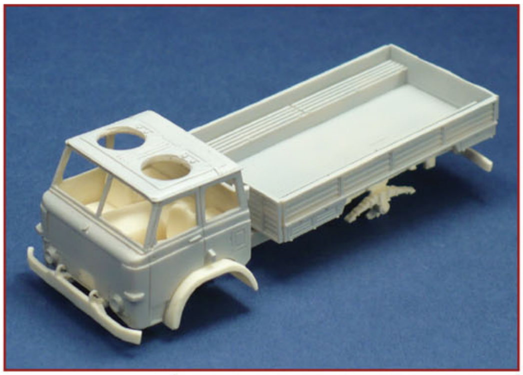
The chassis frame is a single piece, containing all the suspension components and accessories cast in place. The cargo bed and the cab only need a few details to be added, which speeds up the construction of the model. Etched plate provides the delicate details - distinctive air inlets, windshield wipers and mirrors, a mere 19 elements. However the drive shafts and few other important details need to be scratch built.

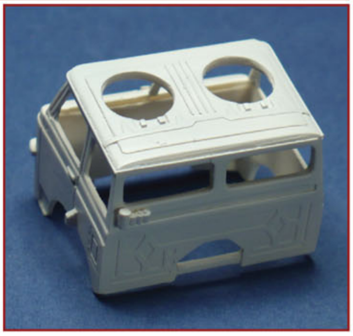
For about USD$50.00 you will have a beautifully crafted multimedia kit for your collection.

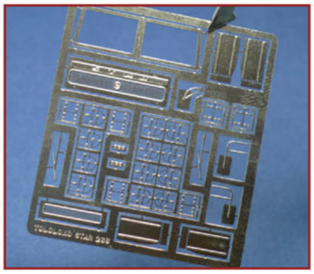
Highly Recommended.

Thanks for Tololoko for samples www.tololoko.pl

Tomasz Hejmo







Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

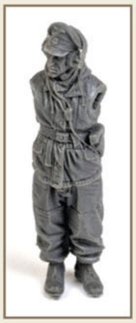
DUST WW2

1:35 SCALE HELMUT – GERMAN TANK COMMANDER IN WINTER UNIFORM
ITEM NO. D35026

DUST is a fictional world based on military history combined with science fiction and fantasy, created by talented artist and author Paolo Parente. Although the focus is fantasy and gaming, there are significant crossovers between Dust's world and military modelling, especially in the field of their excellent figures.

One of Dust's latest figures is Helmut, a WWII German tank Commander. He is made up from just four beautifully cast pieces and is holding a set of binoculars in his left hand, while his right hand will be resting on a cupola. The figure is wearing winter Panzer uniform and will be suitable for almost any mid to late-war German vehicle.

As usual, packaging is positively luxurious, with the four resin parts suspended between two vacform beds inside a stout cardboard box. Lovely stuff.



This is an excellent figure for any modellers of German subjects.

Highly Recommended.

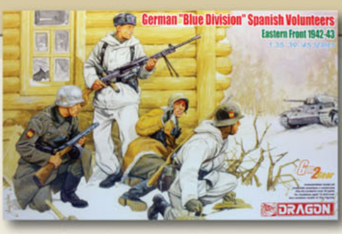
Thanks to Dust Models for the sample www.dustgame.com

Brett Green

DUST
WW2
D35026
HELMUT

DRAGON

1:35 SCALE GERMAN 'BLUE DIVISION' SPANISH VOLUNTEERS, EASTERN FRONT 1942-43
ITEM NO. 6674



The 'Blue Division' was a unit made up of Spanish volunteers who wanted to join the fight against Communism during WWII. Although Spain was a neutral country during the war, its leader General Franco gave permission for volunteers to join with the Germans but only on condition they fight exclusively on the Eastern Front.

The division got its nickname 'blue' from the shirts of the uniform that they wore when home on leave. It also comprised a red beret and khaki trousers but when on active service they wore regular German army field grey uniform.

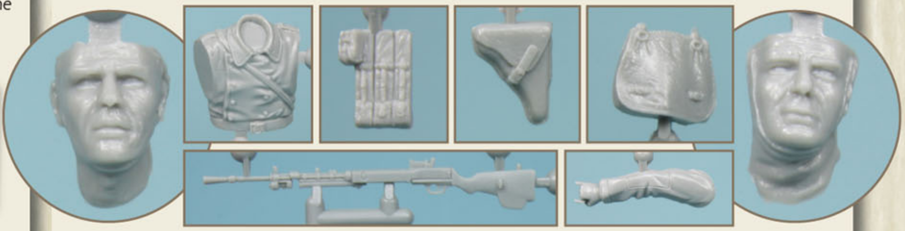
Inside the box we find four sprues moulded in grey styrene. The figures are depicted wearing German winter clothing such as the brown sheepskin coat and padded reversible parka and trousers. Quality of detail and moulding is good but again a couple of the figures have what I can only describe as small fault lines on them. This can be solved with suitable filler such as Mr Surfacer but having reviewed quite a few figure sets it is something Dragon could do with addressing.

A selection of German and Russian weapons are included, presumably because the Blue Division made use of captured equipment. Personal gear is German and there is plenty included for the four figures. Colours in the painting instructions are as usual from Testor's Model Master and Gunze ranges and the great box art can be used for reference, although sourcing the red and yellow helmet flashes and arm shield will be a challenge.

This is another good set from Dragon and comes highly recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Andy King

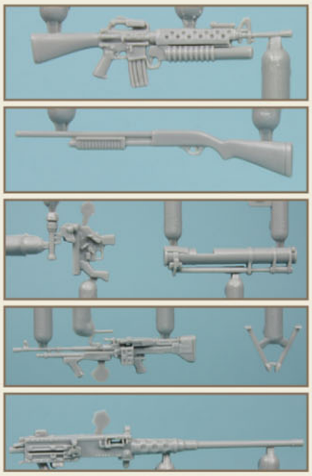


DRAGON QUARTERMASTER SERIES

1:35 SCALE MODERN INFANTRY SUPPORT WEAPONS
ITEM NO. 3808

New from Dragon is this set of modern infantry weapons featuring various rocket launchers, machine guns and even a shotgun. In the box there are three sprues, two of which are duplicated. Quality of moulding is good although there are a few bits of flash here and there.

DRAGON
1:35 QUARTERMASTER SERIES
MODERN INFANTRY
FIRE SUPPORT WEAPONS



The weapons comprise the venerable Browning M2 .50 cal with tripod and belt fed ammo box, the Mk.19 40mm grenade launcher and tripod, the SMAW (Shoulder-launched Multi-purpose Assault Weapon) rocket launcher, M72 LAWA3 and E5 (Light Anti-tank Weapon), M136 Anti-tank weapon, M249 SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon), M60 LMG (Light Machine Gun), M16's automatic rifle with M203 grenade launcher and the M870 pump action shotgun. More than enough to equip your own 1/35 scale infantry platoon.

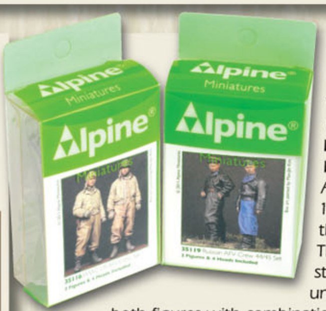
Detail is very good and with the M72s you have a choice of either stowed or extended tubes (ready for firing). The M2 .50's can of course be used for AFV's as well as tripod mounted for infantry use.

This will be a very useful set, particularly if equipping modern US troops and infantry fighting vehicles.

Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Andy King



ALPINE MINIATURES

1:35 SCALE
WW2 US AFV CREW SET
ITEM NO. 35116
RUSSIAN AFV CREW 44/45 SET.
ITEM NO. 35119

Alpine Miniatures has added two new 1:35 scale sets to their growing range in the last few months.

The US AFV Crew Set offers two standing figures wearing winter tanker's uniforms. Alternate heads are offered for both figures with combinations of infantry or tanker's helmets.

The Soviet crew are also standing in poses that would be suitable inside a vehicle or out. One figure has cloth trousers and leather jacket, while his crewmate is completely leather clad. Once again, two heads are supplied for each figure.

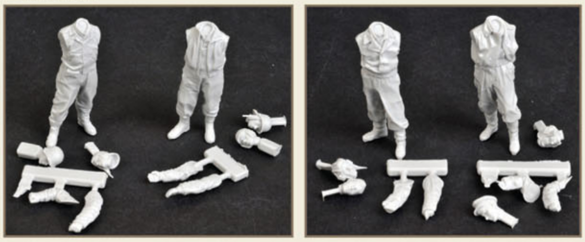
Each figure is made up from five parts including the optional heads with the exception of one Soviet tanker, who also has a separate holster for his pistol. The attractive box art will be a good guide (and inspiration) for painting in both cases.

Now in its fifth year of business, Alpine Miniatures has built a strong reputation for its high quality sculpting and casting. These two excellent sets will be warmly welcomed by WWII Soviet and US figure fans.

Highly Recommended.

Alpine Miniatures products may be viewed on their website www.alpineminiatures.com

Brett Green



48th 1:48 Scale - A round-up of the latest news and releases

THE ZING FACTOR

How many times have you seen a perfectly built and painted model with absolutely no redeeming features whatsoever? I travel a fair bit on the web and indeed on a club level and from time to time I see models that just grab your attention, while others leave me flat. It could be the model's presentation, idea or the detail that just screams out and says, "look at me"! Most of us can build a basic model out of the box, but how many of us can build one with the "Zing Factor" in mind? This "Zing Factor" could be as simple as a pin wash (to bring out the detail) or as elaborate as a completely scratch built model.

So what is this "Zing Factor"? It is that certain something that sets any model or miniature apart - the icing on the cake. The so-called "Spanish School" of modelling has this firmly in mind in its essence. The modulation technique, for example, endeavours to bring life and depth to an essentially flat subject. Some have called the approach overdone (as scale models are in reality a 3D subject) but nevertheless the method does bring a certain "Zing Factor" to any model.

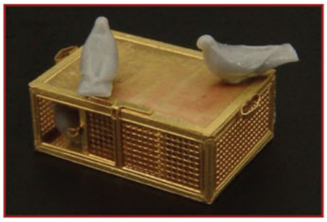
The humble pin wash is another technique that can bring life to an otherwise dead or lifeless paint job. I believe that we should all embrace any concept that will make our models look better, but it should be tempered with the fact at what we are building are scale replicas and not a piece of graphic art.

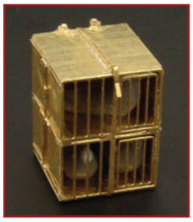
Until next time Luke Pitt

HAULER

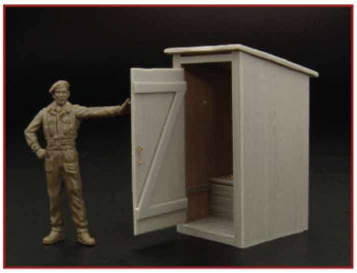
HLF48015 LATRINE
HLF48014 RUSTIC STYLE WATER PUMP
HLX49311 U.S PIGEONS OF WAR
HLX48312 GERMAN PIGEONS OF WAR
HLS48011 RUSSIAN BA 64 ARMOURED CAR

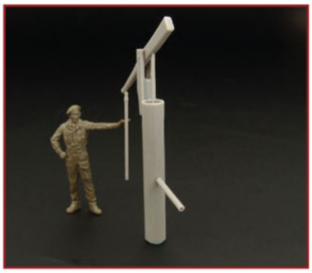
Hauler continues to add to their ever-growing range of quarter scale accessories. The following releases show that they are willing to offer extremely diverse and interesting subjects for our modelling consideration.





kits & accessories
Hauler
BA-64B
1/48





HLF48015 LATRINE

The kit is packaged in a sturdy box with a photo of the finished product on the front. Inside there are four nicely cast resin pieces, one small sheet of photo etch and some very simple to follow instructions.

The resin parts show some very fine woodgrain texture where you would expect. The main structure and all the other wood parts have a very clever wood plank effect, which should come up nicely with some careful painting and weathering. The door is well done with an appropriately cast "Z" section of timber to hold the door panels together just like the real thing.

The rest of the resin parts are also well cast. Care will need to be exercised when removing them from their resin pour plugs. The photo etch fret goes towards making some hinges for the door, a handle for the latrine seat lid and some glasses for the reading material which is very thoughtfully provided on the instruction sheet.

This is a very well produced kit and one that will make for some interesting diorama possibilities as well as testing your eyesight due to the tiny photo etch parts.

Recommended.

Ross Ferro

HLF48014 RUSTIC STYLE WATER PUMP

It stands to reason that after you have been to the outside office (latrine or dunny here in Oz) you should always wash your hands. Well, this kit may be part of that broader plan and Hauler has very thoughtfully provided a solution. Packed in a clear plastic bag with cardboard header card are five resin pieces all cast onto one pour plug with a very basic instruction sheet to aid construction.

The resin pieces are finely cast (with just a few tiny air bubbles on part R4 in my sample) and will build into a very nice representation of the water pump although you will need to source some wire to complete the kit. I did find myself scratching my head a little trying to interpret some of the difference between the parts and where exactly they would fit. Perhaps the part numbers could have been cast into the resin pour plug to make things a bit easier.

This is another interesting addition and with a bit of care, dry fitting and patience will build into a nice kit.

Recommended.

Ross Ferro

Thanks to Hauler for the samples www.hauler.cz

HLS48011 BA-64 SOVIET ARMOURED CAR

Want to build something a little different in 1:48? Then Hauler's new multi-media kit of the BA-64B might be just what you are looking for. When you examine this kit, you can see why Hauler is considered at the top of the class as a 1:48 scale kit and detail company.

The kit comprises 26 beautiful grey resin parts and 46 photo-etch parts on a single fret. The parts are beautifully rendered but the real high point of this kit is the logical use of the proper materials for the part that is being created. The fenders, engine grills louvres and turret ring are all photo-etch, helping to create a wonderful sense of scale. Other details such as the vision blocks, latches and brackets and even a saw with a laminated handle... all rendered in beautifully rendered brass.

On the resin side, the upper hull is one big piece with very nice surface detail. It is hollow to the degree that you can see through the turret ring opening down to the floorboard but the hull sides are filled in solid. There is a very nicely rendered chassis and suspension that will build up to look very convincing, and the wheels and tires are works of art!

Although there are no decals, I am sure you can use some extras from other 1:48 Russian kits successfully.

The instructions are very well done with extremely clear diagrams to walk you through the building process.

A year or two ago, Luke Pitt encouraged us to truly "scratch build" something different in 1:48 and then kindly supplied scale drawings of this little WWII armoured car. I took up his challenge and proceeded to fail miserably! But here is Hauler to the rescue with a beautiful kit of this cool little subject in 1:48. Thanks Hauler. I can't wait to see what's next.

Highly Recommended.

Stan Spooner

Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with Master Modeller Lester Plaskitt

Lester Plaskitt lives in the small town of Darlington located in the North East of England with his wife Trace and two daughters Amy and Emily, together with their dog Gromit - love that name! He works as a Development Engineer for a large outdoor power tool manufacturer. He has had an interest in modelling since the age of 9 starting off, as many modellers did, building Airfix model aircraft. This all changed once he joined his local model club, The Darlington Military Modelling Society. Seeing the work of its members opened up his eyes up to the larger world of modelling, especially the modellers producing AFV kits. From this point on he almost exclusively concentrated on 1:35 scale AFV models. Recently he ventured into 1:48 sale armour modelling and has produced a model that (in my opinion) is one of the most subtly weathered and accurate Tigers I have seen thus far. It is a real pleasure to have a chance to interview him this month.

THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Hi Lester. Good to have you with us. I note you have now tried 1:48 armour. What do you think?

Lester: *The reason I first built a 1:48 scale kit came about as an idea from some of the armour modellers at my club to start a group build of a designated 1:48 scale subject, namely a Tiger 1. Having recently finished an involved 1:35 scale Panther build and after seeing some of the excellent 1:48 scale models available today I thought this would be a great relaxing project that I would be able to complete in a reasonable time (unlike some of my larger scale builds). I decided on the AFV Club late Tiger I, which turned out to be one of the best model kits I have ever built. Upon starting the Tiger, I found that I was able to proceed through the building stages at a lot quicker rate due to the smaller scale (from the start I had decided not to use and after market accessories apart from some individual track links from Sky bow) but not at the expense of losing details that can happen in braille scales. This enabled me to get to the painting and weathering stages finished a lot quicker than usual. I tried as much as possible to retain the painting methods I use on1:35 scale models on the Tiger and to my pleasant surprise, I found they translated perfectly to this smaller scale, enabling me, to still produce small painting details in scale(such as chipping and scratches) in a very realistic manner. I think as a scale 1:48 is ideal for modellers who want the detail and painting opportunities offered by 1:35 models but with easier construction out of the box and a much quicker completion time.*

Luke: What is the most 1:48 influential scale model you have seen in print and why?

Lester: *There have been a number outstanding 1:48 scale models from the hands of Pat Johnston, who has managed to produce models in 1:48 the scale that would be mistaken for larger scales if there was no text to inform the modeller of the fact they are 1:48 scale. Seeing these models that have been extensively published in the modelling press has motivated me to move into this scale. Also having had the opportunity to see some of the work of Paul O'Keefe in the flesh as such during a visit to the Miniature Figure Collectors of America show last year, seeing how he has managed to include each of his models, in a small scenic base with figures (often some of them scratch built) all without the use of an airbrush. Along with these two master modellers, seeing the work of my long time friend Neil Walker a member of my local modelling club who converted over to 1:48 scale after modelling in 1:35 scale for many years was quite a revelation to me. It was inspiring to see how Neil managed to transfer his methods of painting larger scale armour to this smaller scale and producing some excellent weathering and paint effects.*

Luke: If you had to pick one kit that should be made in 1:48 scale, what would that be?

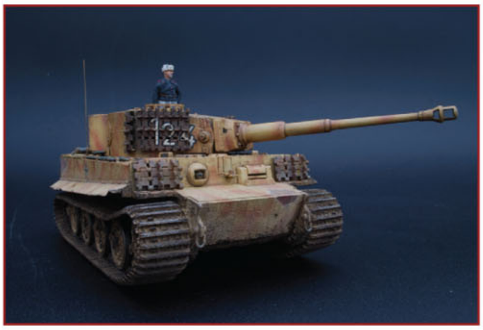
Lester: *One kit that I would like to see in 1:48 scale? that's a hard question Luke! I think there is a lot of scope for the leading manufacturers to perhaps move more into the modern armour field, a 1:48 scale version of an M1A1 Abrams would be very welcome as would some more of the modern vehicles such as a Challenger 2 or an AAVP7. Modern Russian AFVs would be welcome too, as I think these modern vehicles would be ideally suited to this scale allowing modellers to expand out from a WWII theme into some of the more recent conflicts. On more of a Second World War theme perhaps some of the earlier marks of Panthers such as the A and D would be a great addition to the currently available kits.*

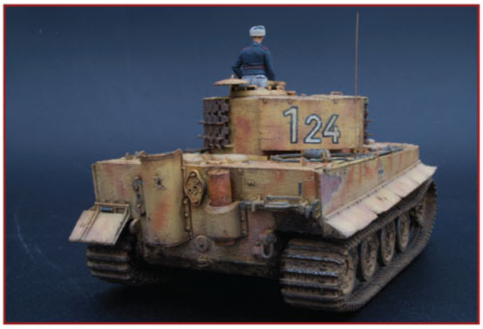
Luke: Is there anything you would like to add in regard to how 1:48 scale could be embraced by more armour modellers?

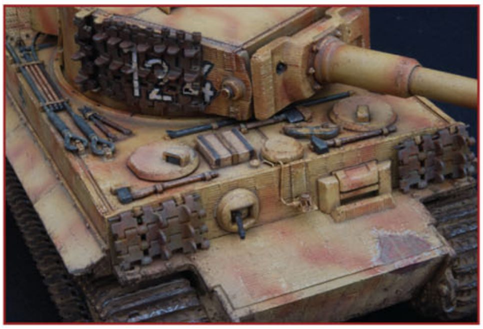
Lester: *I think any modeller who has not as yet ventured into 1:48 scale should defiantly give it a try even if you do not intend to completely transfer over to 1:48 from your preferred scales. This scale can offer a welcome change of pace in construction and weathering opportunities.*

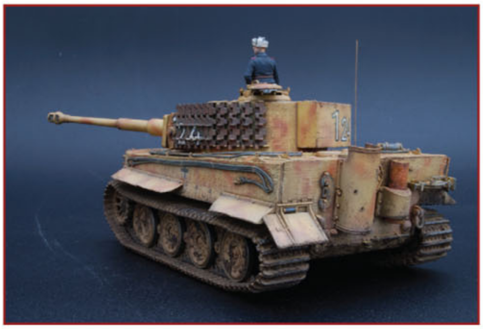
Luke: Thanks for your time Lester. I am always inspired by your builds and know a lot of others are too.

Lester: *Thanks Luke and good luck with the column.*









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Gaso.Line's 1:48 scale Buffalo MRAP full kit built by Andrew Judson, with a Think Tank Lite by Stuart Ransley.

BERLIN '46 – PREDATOR ON PATROL

Jose Brito brings us his 1:35 scale Trumpeter E-100

TOPLESS TWENTY

We ran out of room in this issue, but next time we will see Zack Sex's 1/32 scale scratch build Panhard M3 Armoured Car.

LITTLE AND LITTLER

The Editor builds Tamiya's 1:35 and 1:48 scale Panzer II kits, while Bruce Culver covers development and history in an associated Think Tank.

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Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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The Last Post..

TANKFEST A ROARING SUCCESS

Record numbers of visitors flocked to the 2011 Tankfest weekend at The Tank Museum for two days of explosions, roaring tank engines and the world's best display of moving armour.

More than 10,000 guests passed through the gates over the course of the Armed Forces Day event in Bovington,

The crowds enjoyed a jam-packed programme of events that saw the Museum's exhibits explode into life in the outdoor arena. A unique performance by the British Army demonstrated modern combat operations by the Royal Armoured Corps and a World War Two mock battle turned back the clock to a North Africa conflict between the Allies and Axis.

As part of this year's evolutionary theme, the Museum also showcased a number of 'military vehicles of the future' including the Ranger, the first ever armoured vehicle to be built in Dorset.

"Tankfest 2011 has been a phenomenal success," said Nik Wyness, marketing and communications manager for The Tank Museum. "We added some new elements to the schedule this year and also managed to include a number of rare and unique vehicles that hadn't featured at Tankfest before.

"We've had a great response from everyone we've spoken to and the challenge is now on to better ourselves next year!"

Launched in April this year, the Museum's new exhibition Battlegroup Afghanistan, which tells the story of the war in Afghanistan using the soldiers' own words, was also open to visitors throughout the weekend.

"The great advantage of both Tankfest and Battlegroup Afghanistan is that they appeal to everyone from enthusiasts to novices young and old alike. The new exhibition tells a really important message about the terrific work our troops are doing out in Afghanistan. It's great to be able to communicate this with the wider audience who otherwise may not fully understand what it is our soldiers do," concluded Nik.

We will have a full photo report on Tankfest 2011 in a future issue of Model Military International magazine. ■

RARE PANZER IV STARRING AT WAR AND PEACE SHOW

A rare German tank that lay hidden in woodland since it was hit by a shell towards the end of the Second World War went on display at July's War and Peace Show.

Now beautifully restored, the Panzer IV Ausf J model Panzer was rescued by Stephen Lamonby who runs Plus Film Ltd, which provides authentic military vehicles for film companies.

"It was discovered up near the Estonian-Russian border in very dense forest," he said. "Getting it out was quite a problem. We had to cut down lots of trees."

Stephen has spent two years bringing the tank back to its former glory. "Nearly everything that was movable had been taken away," he said. "I imagine it had been sold for scrap.

"But surprisingly it still had a live armour piercing shell in the gun breech and there are several hits from Russian 14.5 mm anti-tank rifles in the front plates which can still be seen.

"We had to search for everything from drive sprockets and track links to gear box parts. This tank had fought to the death. The engine had been shot to pieces.

"Fortunately we were able to locate most of the replacements in Eastern Europe and once the restoration had reached a certain point they fitted straight on".

The Panzer IV was built in 1944 at the Nibelungen Werke, St Valentin, Austria. It is marked as Panzer Lehr Division as it would have appeared in the Normandy campaign.

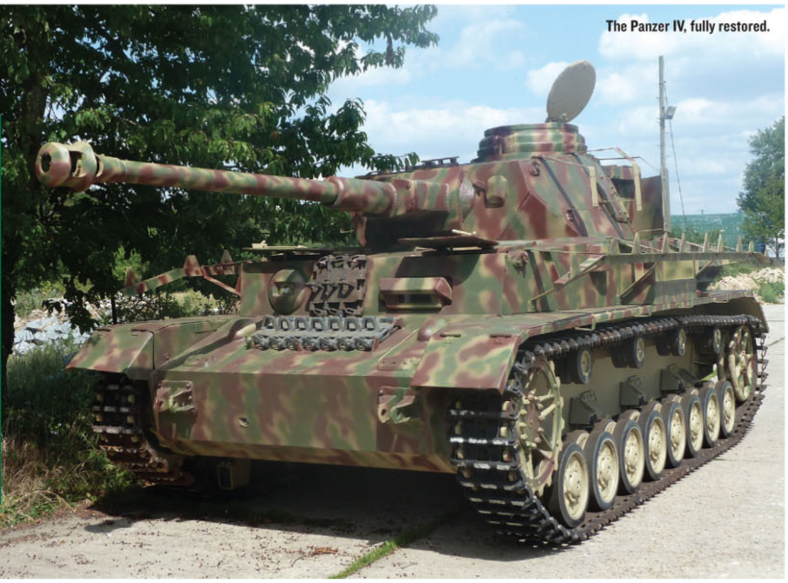
In 2008 Stephen, from Hampshire, won Best in Show at War and Peace after restoring a Panzer 38tF which had lain half buried on a farm in Hungary since the War.

At this year's Show, he also had a VW 166 Schwimmer built in 1944 on display, and also a Jeep used by Tom Hanks in the film "Saving Private Ryan".

His company has supplied vehicles for several major productions including, Band of Brothers, Captain Corelli's Mandolin and Charlotte Grey as well as Saving Private Ryan.

It looks as if the Panzer IV is also set to become a star. ■

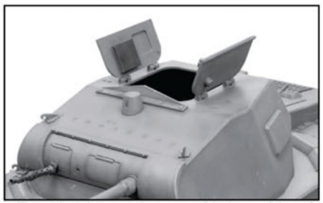
Stephen Lamonby with his prize winning Panzer 38t



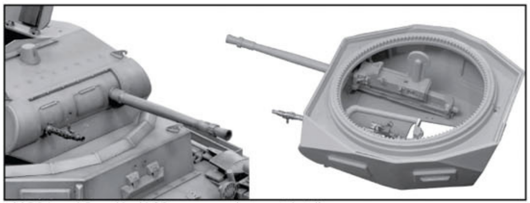
The Panzer IV, fully restored.

FIGURES NOT INCLUDED

1/6 Pz.Kpfw.II Ausf.B

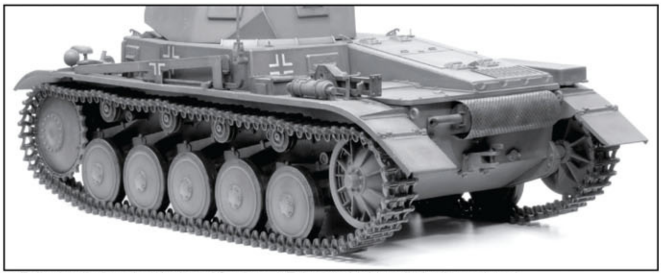


- Turret hatches can be assembled open/closed

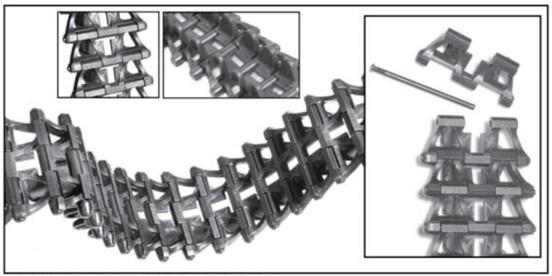


- MG34 and 2cm Kw.K 30 cannon w/correct detail

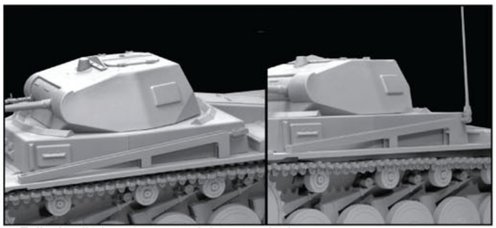
- Rounded glacis plate fully detailed



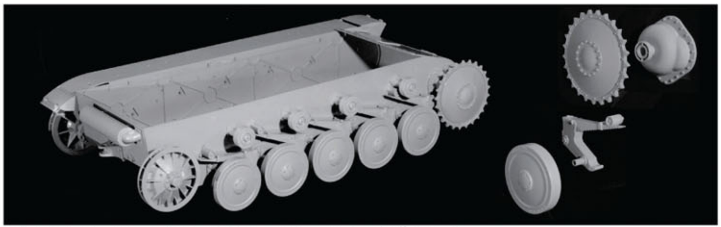
- Fully detailed engine deck and fenders
- Exhaust shield realistically produced



- Highly detailed workable tracks included



- Fully detailed antenna trough is correctly done



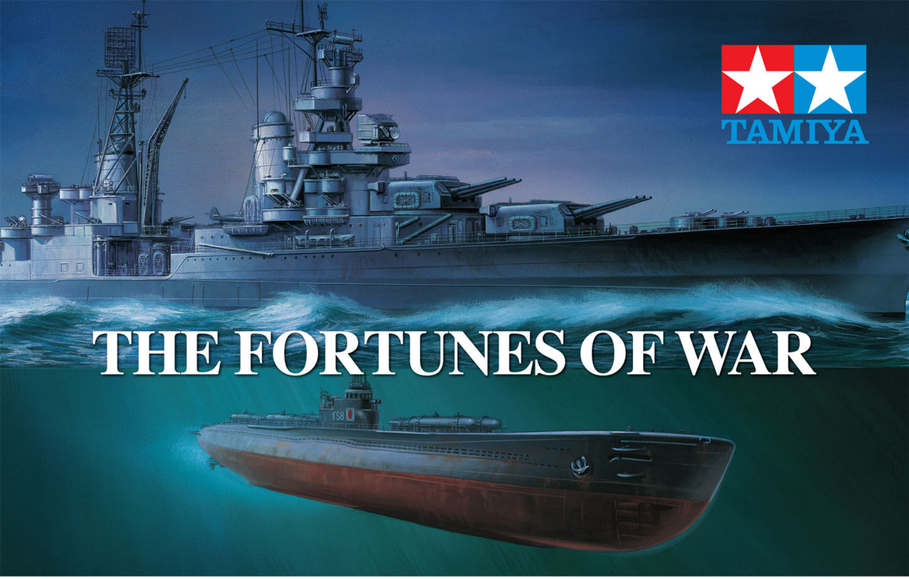
- Road wheels, return rollers and drive sprockets rendered w/full detail

D75025

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG
See the full Dragon range at www.hobbyco.net
Dragon models are available from all good model shops

www.hobbyco.net

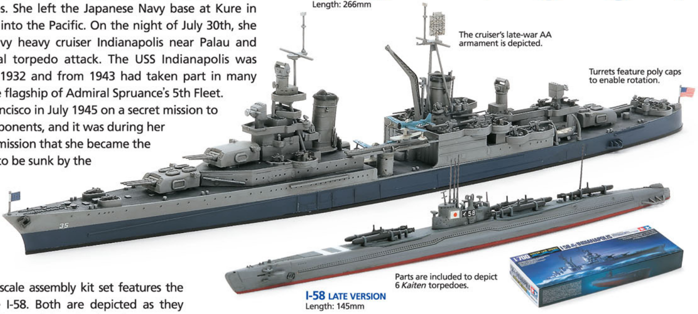
TAMIYA



THE FORTUNES OF WAR

The I-58 was completed in September 1944 as the Japanese Navy's final *Otsu*-type submarine. Under the command of Lt. Commander Mochitsura Hashimoto, the I-58 was sent into combat as a launch platform for *Kaiten* manned torpedoes. She left the Japanese Navy base at Kure in July 1945 and proceeded into the Pacific. On the night of July 30th, she encountered the U.S. Navy heavy cruiser Indianapolis near Palau and sank her by conventional torpedo attack. The USS Indianapolis was completed in November 1932 and from 1943 had taken part in many naval engagements as the flagship of Admiral Spruance's 5th Fleet. She had departed San Francisco in July 1945 on a secret mission to deliver atomic bomb components, and it was during her return to Leyte from this mission that she became the last major Allied warship to be sunk by the Japanese Navy in WWII.

WATER LINE SERIES



INDIANAPOLIS
Length: 266mm

The cruiser's late-war AA armament is depicted.

Turrets feature poly caps to enable rotation.

Parts are included to depict 6 *Kaiten* torpedoes.

I-58 LATE VERSION
Length: 145mm

Participants of a Fateful Encounter

This limited edition 1/700 scale assembly kit set features the USS Indianapolis and the I-58. Both are depicted as they appeared in July 1945. The special packaging features an illustration of the I-58 running beneath the waves. The circumstances of the fateful meeting between these two ships are also described by a detailed historical background text.

Item 25119

I-58 & INDIANAPOLIS

JAPANESE SUBMARINE I-58 LATE VERSION & U.S. HEAVY CRUISER INDIANAPOLIS

★Set features waterline kits. Models may vary from images shown.

1971-2011 ANNIVERSARY 40th WATER LINE SERIES

Waterline Series 40th Anniversary

Naval Drama in 1/700 Scale

British Battleship Prince of Wales (Battle of Malaya) (Item 31615)

British Battle Cruiser Hood & E Class Destroyer (Battle of the Denmark Strait) (Item 31806)

U.S. Submarine Gato Class & Japanese Submarine Chaser No.13 (Item 31903)

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